GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th AUGUST, 2021

PM-WANI SCHEME

1943# Shri Narhari Amin:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched PM-WANI Scheme to provide internet and Wi-Fi facilities in all villages of the country;
- (b) the number of villages which have been connected under the said scheme so far;
- (c) the number of villages which are yet to be connected under the said scheme; and
- (d) the number of villages of Gujarat which have been connected along with the number of villages which are yet to be connected?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a)to(d) The proposal of the Department for Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks named as Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework has been approved by the Cabinet on 9/12/2020. As per the PM-WANI framework, last mile broadband connectivity will be through a network of public Wi-Fi access points. The internet backhaul requirement for these Wi-Fi access points is to be provided by internet bandwidth from the telecom service providers/internet service providers.

PM-WANI eco-system consists of following players who will neither be required to take any license nor pay any fee to the government:

- **Public Data Office (PDO):** To establish, maintain, and operate WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers.
- Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): An aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting.
- **App Provider**: To register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.
- Central Registry: To maintain, in accordance with the WANI architecture and specifications, the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.

Public Wi-Fi through PM-WANI is a Pan India framework applicable both for rural and urban areas.

Number of Wi-Fi Access Points installed inclusive of rural and urban areas in the State of Gujarat is 1981.
