

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1496
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2022**

PROGRESS OF PM-WANI SCHEME

1496 SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress that has been made under Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme initiated in 2021;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Public Data Offices (PDO) have failed to provide privacy and security for data and have not stored users' data for a year as mandated; and
- (c) the steps that are being taken to democratise internet facilities and yet maintain minimal security for the user?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) As on 25-07-2022, 1,00,302 Hotspots have been set up under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework.
- (b) No, Sir. PM-WANI framework and guidelines, inter-alia, states thus:
 - (i) Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA) shall make necessary provisions for storage of user data for one year to ensure compliance with legal provisions, as required.
 - (ii) The user data privacy will be ensured by Application Providers (App Providers) and PDOAs. Complete user data and usage logs will be stored within India.
 - (iii) Subject to terms and conditions of the Registration, the App Provider, PDOA and Central Registry Provider will take all necessary steps to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of any information about a third party to whom it provides the service.
- (c) The department has launched National Broadband Mission (NBM) on 17th December 2019, to bridge the digital divide and provide affordable broadband for all. PM-WANI framework will also enable provision of broadband services in the country through Public Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity). The license conditions provide for security conditions to be followed by Internet Service Providers.
