

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2810
ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2026**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER WI-FI ACCESS NETWORK
INTERFACE (PM-WANI) SCHEME IN KARNATAKA**

2810. SHRI M MALLESH BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of PM-WANI Public Data Offices (PDOs), Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) and Wi-Fi hotspots established in Karnataka particularly in the Kolar Lok Sabha Constituency during the last five years, year and district-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised under the PM-WANI Scheme in Karnataka during the last five years, district-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the PM-WANI Scheme on digital connectivity, internet accessibility, digital education, e-governance and livelihood opportunities in Karnataka particularly in the Kolar Lok Sabha Constituency and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to expand PM-WANI coverage, improve internet quality, encourage participation of local entrepreneurs and provide affordable public Wi-Fi services in rural and underserved areas of Karnataka particularly in the Kolar Lok Sabha Constituency?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) The count of Public Data Offices (PDOs) registered under PM-WANI in Karnataka during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise is as below: -

District Name	PDOs/ wi-fi hotspots as on 31.3.2022	PDOs/ wi-fi hotspots as on 31.3.2023	PDOs/ wi-fi hotspots as on 31.3.2024	PDOs/ wi-fi hotspots as on 31.3.2025	PDOs/ wi-fi hotspots as on 31.3.2026
BAGALKOT	270	422	422	422	424
BALLARI	110	283	294	294	294
BELAGAVI	548	907	908	908	908
BENGALURU RURAL	1,061	1,155	1,158	1,164	1,166
BENGALURU URBAN	7,019	7,803	9,114	10,521	10,534
BIDAR	12	216	241	241	241
CHAMARAJANAGAR	145	195	195	197	197
CHIKKABALLAPUR	208	236	240	240	240
CHIKKAMAGALURU	21	389	389	390	390
CHITRADURGA	366	500	500	500	500

DAKSHINA KANNADA	60	595	815	811	811
DAVANGERE	376	464	464	464	464
DHARWAD	342	590	590	590	590
GADAG	117	235	235	235	235
HASSAN	261	529	529	529	529
HAVERI	61	190	190	190	190
KALABURAGI	171	494	494	494	495
KODAGU	30	182	182	182	182
KOLAR	60	320	323	330	330
KOPPAL	23	130	132	133	134
MANDYA	24	192	192	192	192
MYSURU	92	496	498	498	500
RAICHUR	38	298	298	298	298
RAMANAGARA	30	64	64	64	64
SHIVAMOGGA	198	534	535	535	536
TUMAKURU	28	297	297	297	297
UDUPI	59	297	297	297	297
UTTARA KANNADA	200	478	478	478	478
VIJAYAPURA	9	212	212	215	215
YADGIR	37	62	62	62	62
Total	11,976	18,765	20,348	21,771	21,793

The count of Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) registered under PM-WANI in Karnataka during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise is as below: -

District	PDOAs as on 31.3.2022	PDOAs as on 31.3.2023	PDOAs as on 31.3.2024	PDOAs as on 31.3.2025	PDOAs as on 31.3.2026
BAGALKOT	0	0	0	0	0
BANGALORE RURAL	0	0	0	0	0
BANGALORE URBAN	5	5	6	6	7
BELGAUM	1	1	1	1	1
BELLARY	0	0	0	0	0
BIDAR	0	0	0	0	0
CHAMARAJANAGAR	0	0	0	0	0
CHIKKABALLAPUR	0	0	0	0	0
CHIKKAMAGALURU	0	0	0	0	0
CHITRADURGA	0	0	0	0	0
DAKSHINA KANNADA	0	0	0	0	0
DAVANAGERE	0	0	0	0	0
DHARWAD	0	0	0	0	0
GADAG	0	0	0	0	0
GULBARGA	0	0	0	0	0
HASSAN	0	0	0	0	0
HAVERI	0	0	0	0	0

KODAGU	0	0	0	0	0
KOLAR	0	0	2	2	2
KOPPAL	0	1	1	1	1
MANDYA	0	0	0	0	0
MYSORE	0	1	1	1	1
RAICHUR	0	0	0	0	0
RAMANAGARA	0	0	0	0	0
SHIMOGA	0	0	0	0	0
TUMKUR	0	0	0	0	0
UDUPI	0	0	0	0	0
UTTARA KANNADA	1	1	1	1	1
VIJAYANAGARA	0	0	0	0	0
VIJAYAPURA	0	0	0	0	0
YADGIR	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	9	12	12	13

Under the existing PM-WANI architecture, details regarding count of PDOs and PDOAs are captured district wise. PDOAs registered in one state can provide wi-fi hotspot services in other states. The total number of unique PDOAs registered under the PM-WANI scheme is 206.

(b) Under the PM-WANI framework, service provision is entirely market-driven, relying on local entrepreneurial initiative based on techno-commercial viability in an area. Government's role is limited to policy enablement with no separate funding provided to States, Union Territories or any of the stake holders.

(c) & (d) The Government role is primarily of policy enablement. Further, to enhance the proliferation of PM-WANI hotspots across the country, including in rural and remote areas, the Government has carried out the following policy interventions in the PM-WANI framework:

- (i) The use of regular FTTH, aggregation of multiple access points to a single backhaul and Quick Response (QR) based authentication for secondary devices have been allowed with a view to cut costs and boost the viability of Public Data Offices (PDOs).
- (ii) Offloading of mobile data and sending of promotional or branding content to users have been allowed, with a view to enhance viability.
- (iii) Home and business wi-fi have been allowed to join PM-WANI, mutual roaming between PDOs has been permitted and the naming of Service Set Identifiers (SSIDs) has been standardised to enable easier discovery.

Further, to reduce cost and enhance viability, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued a tariff order on retail broadband connectivity for PDOs, mandating that Internet Service Providers offer all retail FTTH broadband plans with maximum speed up to 200 mega bits per second to PDOs at tariffs not more than twice the corresponding consumer broadband tariff.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has undertaken extensive awareness and outreach initiatives to create mass awareness about the PM-WANI framework and encourage its adoption. As on 30.6.2026, DoT has conducted 68 awareness workshops and 7 press briefings in Karnataka in addition to publication of 3 advertisements in print media.
