

**Response\_Consultation Paper\_ DRAFT\_THE TELECOMMUNICATION TARIFF  
(SEVENTY FIRST AMENDMENT) ORDER, 2025 ( of 2025)**

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Greetings from Consumer Guild Lucknow !

We are sending here with our comments on Consultation Paper DRAFT **THE  
TELECOMMUNICATION TARIFF (SEVENTY FIRST AMENDMENT) ORDER, 2025 ( of  
2025)**

Yours Sincerely,

**Abhishek Srivastava**

**Chairman**

**Consumer Guild, Lucknow**

**Consumer Advocacy Group Member of TRAI.**

**E-5/140,Rajaji Puram,Lucknow-226017 Uttar Pradesh,**



**Consumer Guild - (TRAI/CAG/10/2015-CA.)**

**RESPONSE :- THE TELECOMMUNICATION TARIFF (SEVENTY FIRST AMENDMENT) ORDER, 2025 (. of 2025)**

Launched in 2020, the PM-WANI scheme aimed to set up public Wi-Fi hotspots across the country through PDOs, which could even include local kirana shops. Though better hotspots, the government aims to increase employment for small and micro-entrepreneurs and provide low-cost internet by offering affordable broadband through public hotspots. However, the program has struggled to reach its full potential due to the high cost of leased line connections charged by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to PDOs. As of July 22, 2024, India has seen the deployment of 207,642 PM-WANI hotspots, along with 199 PDO Aggregators (PDOAs) and 111 app providers. Despite this progress, the number of hotspots remains far below the targets set in the NDCP 2018 and the Bharat 6G Vision documents. According to TRAI's calculations, internet leased lines (100 Mbps) cost 40 to 80 times more annually than retail broadband connections (100 Mbps). The average data usage per PM-WANI hotspot is generally lower than that of a FTTH connection, which also strengthens the DoT's view of low proliferation of PM-WANI. This has to be rationalized for increasing the data usage for the PM WANI hotspot.

**It is a way forward step in a right direction For affordable broadband through public hotspots and we fully support The Telecommunication Tariff ( Seventy First Amendment Order, 2025) In Schedule VI to the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, the following item and entry thereto shall be inserted, namely: :- The Broadband tariff (FTTH) for Public Data Office (PDO) under the PM-WANI scheme shall not exceed twice the tariff applicable for retail broadband FTTH services for the corresponding capacity offered by the respective service provider.**

