GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1837
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.03.2017

REVIEW OF I.T. ACT

1837   SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to review more than 15 year old Information Technology Act to strengthen cyber security infrastructure, following the push for digital payments post demonetization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a closed group has been set up to look into various aspects of the Act in line with the changing times; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has issued advisories to all digital payment agencies including banks and e-wallet providers to harden the security walls?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The Information Technology Act, 2000 (with its amendments in 2008), provides comprehensive legal framework to deal with the present day cyber security breaches. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has constituted an internal group under the chairmanship of Secretary to review and look into various aspects of the Act in line with the changing times.

(c): Government has issued the following advisories regarding secure digital payment :

1. All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry out audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.

2. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.

3. 21 advisories have been issued by CERT-In regarding safeguards for users and institutions to secure digital payments.

4. RBI carries out IT Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of banks from last year. This examination report has a special focus on cyber security. The reports have been issued to the banks for remedial action.

5. RBI has also set up Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond and recover to/ from the incidents.

6. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI also conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios with the help of CERT-In.

7. RBI has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security. The banks are required, among other things, to have a cyber-security policy, cyber crisis management plan, gap assessment vis-à-vis the baseline requirements indicated in the circular, monitoring certain risk indicators in the area, report unusual cyber

security incidents within 2 to 6 hours, ensure board involvement in the matter and robust vendor risk management.

8. RBI has issued circular on 9th December 2016 on Security and Risk mitigation measure for all authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) in the country.

9. In addition, RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detection measures to tackle phishing attacks.