

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1638
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2020

AWARENESS ABOUT DIGITAL PAYMENTS TRANSACTIONS

1638: SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that number of digital payments through UPI has increased significantly;
- (b) the steps that Government is taking to increase awareness about digital payment transactions; and
- (c) in what manner Government is planning to address the challenge of expanding payment acceptance points across retail merchant networks, in the wake of increased payment transactions?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): Yes, Sir. Government is aware that number of digital payments through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has increased significantly. Total number of Digital transactions over UPI platform undertaken in the country during the last three years and the current year is as under:

| Financial Year (FY) | Total Digital Transactions over UPI platform (Crores) |
|----------------------------|---|
| FY 2016-17 | 1.70 |
| FY 2017-18 | 90.30 |
| FY 2018-19 | 539.15 |
| FY 2019-20 (till Jan 2020) | 994.60 |

(b): The following steps are being taken by Government to increase awareness about digital payment transactions:

- Government issued advisories to Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to improve payments acceptance infrastructure and thereby enable the citizens to pay by a variety of modes such as Internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc.
- Government launched the scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” to usher in digital literacy in rural India. Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment Systems. The outcome measurement criteria include undertaking at least 5 electronic payments transactions by each beneficiary using UPI, USSD, PoS, AEPS, Cards, Internet Banking. Presently, more than 3.46 crore candidates have been enrolled and around 2.82 crore have been trained, out of which more than 2.07 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme.
- Awareness campaigns were organized in the Capital Cities of North East to promote digital payments. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) also ran Newspaper campaigns, Digital Theatre Campaigns, FM Radio campaigns and hoarding campaigns to promote digital payments.
- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applicable on Debit Card/BHIM UPI/Aadhaar-Pay transactions less than or equal to Rs. 2000/- in value was reimbursed to banks for a period of two years with effect from 1st January, 2018.

(c): In order to address the challenge of expanding payment acceptance points across retail merchant networks, in the wake of increased payment transactions, the following steps are being taken by Government:

- Ministry is constantly monitoring the growth of Digital payments over UPI platform including success rate of digital transactions so as to take necessary action.
- Ministry is also coordinating with Banks and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to ensure proper uptime of UPI switch and to upgrade server capacities to meet the increased transaction load.
- Ministry is coordinating with Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to enable all customer touch points with digital payment options including UPI

- In order to increase digital payments, targets regarding acceptance infrastructure at merchant end are assigned to Banks and monitored
