already held stakeholder consultation meetings with Over the Top (OTT) players, Telecom Service Providers/ Internet Service Providers, Civil Society Members & Consumer groups, Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) & various Associations / Industry bodies. The committee is expected to submit its recommendations by this month end. The Government will then take a structured view on the way forward. I assure this Honourable House that the key principles of net neutrality will be followed while addressing concerns with a national outlook.

Amendment to it Act, 2000

1440. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Information and Technology (IT) Act 2000 in the aftermath of the recent Supreme Court judgement that struck down Section 66A as unconstitutional, with a view to de-criminalize posting of offensive content on the Internet;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to include procedural safeguards in such a provision to ensure that such provision is not misused by fundamentalist elements in Society to harass law-abiding citizens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal with the Government to amend the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a Committee to examine the implications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment quashing Section 66A of the Information Technology Act 2000 and to suggest appropriate legal remedy to fill gaps in the legal regime, if any, in the wake of the aforesaid judgment.

Also, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.K. Vishwanathan, former Secretary, Law Commission & Secretary General has been set up by Ministry of Home Affairs to study and examine the existing domestic cyber laws and International Cyber legislations and recommend a road map with measures and amendments to the present laws for consideration of the Government.

Further, in order to comprehensively address the issues of Cyber Crimes, Ministry of Home Affairs has set up an Expert Group consisting of Academicians and Professionals

of repute to prepare a roadmap for effectively tackling the Cyber Crimes in the country and give suitable recommendations on all facets of cyber crime. The five-member Expert Study Group comprises of Dr. Rajat Moona, Director General Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Professor Balakrishnan, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Dr. Gulshan Rai, then Director General Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), Professor Manindra Aggarwal, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Professor D. Dass, International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bengaluru. Shri Kumar Alok, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs is the Convenor of the Expert Group. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group are:

(i) To prepare a Road Map for effectively tackling the Cyber Crime in the country and give suitable recommendations on all its facets.

(ii) Recommend possible partnerships with Public and Private Sector, NGOs, International Bodies and International NGOs.

(iii) Any other special measures / steps the Expert Group may like to recommend with regard to tackling Cyber Crimes.

Opening of post offices

1441. SHRI DILIP BHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices have been opened in all the villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details especially to that of Gujarat and the number of post offices likely to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether all post offices of the country, including those of Gujarat, have been equipped with e-mail, internet and computer facilities, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when all post offices are likely to be equipped with above mentioned facilities, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No Sir, However, Department through a physical network of 1,39,182 rural post offices, 1,795 Franchise Outlets (FOs) and 2,795 Panchayt Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) are providing basic postal services to all the villages in the country. In addition to delivery, sale of stamps and stationery is also being offered through postmen/delivery agents, while they are on their regular visits to respective beats. Expansion of postal services by relocation and redeployment