

public order are State subjects and Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 empowers a District Magistrate, a Sub-Divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate specially empowered by the State Government to issue prohibitory orders in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger. Further, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" on 07.08.2017 under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per these rules, the direction to suspend the telecom services including internet in an area can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or the State Home Secretary, as the case may be, due to public emergency or public safety. Government does not maintain records of internet shutdowns ordered by the State Governments.

#### **Loss to IT Sector**

1367. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian IT Industry has been severely affected by increased levels of protectionism in the US and other developed countries' markets during the past one year;

(b) if so, the estimated level of losses to the Indian IT sector in terms of revenues, profits and employment during this financial year and in the coming two years; and

(c) the steps being taken by IT companies, industry bodies and Government to minimize these negative effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Estimation of expected losses is not made as various legislative changes proposed are at discussion stage and have not yet become law. In the current fiscal, the IT industry is projected to continue to be a net hirer and grow nearly 8% to reach US\$ 154 billion.

(c) Government has undertaken a consultative approach with the industry associations and industry members to improve the overall state of the IT industry and key challenges being faced. Efforts are also being made to diversify and increase presence in other markets such as Europe (besides UK), Africa, South America, Israel, Australia, China and Japan. The Indian industry bodies such as NASSCOM are also in regular contact with their counterparts to nullify/minimise the adverse impact.

**Blacklisting of Aadhaar operators**

1368. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Aadhaar operators which have been blacklisted by Government till date along with the details thereof;

(b) the status of the Aadhaar Cards issued by such operators; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government to ensure that no malpractices are indulged into by existing operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) As on date, about 50,000 Aadhaar enrolment operators have been suspended for violating process guidelines relating to Aadhaar enrolment.

(b) An operator is blacklisted mainly when he crosses a certain threshold of errors during enrolment. All such erroneous enrolments are rejected during quality checks. Hence, Aadhaar is not generated in respect of such enrolments. However, the eligible enrolments, free of any errors, result into Aadhaar generation.

(c) The Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Regulations framed thereunder prescribe punitive actions for various offences related to Aadhaar. Regulation 26 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 prescribes action against operators and others for violating any regulations, processes, standards, guidelines and orders issued by UIDAI with regard to enrolment of residents.

Further, UIDAI organises training and sensitization workshops for enrolment agencies and operators working under them on various issues of enrolment, from time to time.

**Gram Panchayats under CSE network**

1369. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aims to establish self sustaining network of 2.5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSC) at Gram Panchayat level under 'Digital India-Pillar 3-Public Internet Access Programme-National Rural Internet Mission' to deliver various citizens centric service.

(b) the details of the total number of Gram Panchayats covered under the CSC network till now, State-wise and year-wise;