

9. Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods. As of now, 43 electronic products are under the ambit of this Order.

Purpose of Aadhaar

4583. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Aadhaar was intended for direct benefit transfers of subsidies and other benefits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the Government's rationale behind linking PAN, birth certificates, death certificates, voter ID, bank accounts, mobile phone numbers to Aadhaar number;
- (d) whether instances of money laundering and black money have shown any decline post Aadhaar linking; and
- (e) if so, the methodology of calculation and details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 stipulates the following:—

"The Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government may, for the purpose of establishing identity of an individual as a condition for receipt of a subsidy, benefit or service for which the expenditure is incurred from, or the receipt therefrom forms part of, the Consolidated Fund of India, require that such individual undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or in the case of an individual to whom no Aadhaar number has been assigned, such individual makes an application for enrolment:

Provided that if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service".

- (c) The objective of Aadhaar seeding with various services is to prevent identity fraud, weed out fake and fictitious accounts/ PANs/ mobile numbers etc. used for

money laundering, terror activities or avoiding taxes, and to ensure reduction in leakages of Government spending. For the beneficiaries, Aadhaar has emerged as powerful instrument to establish their identity anywhere at any time, receive entitlements and exercise their rights.

(d) and (e) No such study has been conducted so far.

Government initiatives for encouraging digital transactions

4584. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government initiatives taken for encouraging digital transactions in the country;

(b) the increase or decrease in digital transactions in the country post demonetisation; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has been working on various strategies and is operating with multiple stakeholders including Banks, Central Ministries/Departments and States to create a conducive environment to promote digital payments across the country. The following are the details of Government initiatives taken for encouraging digital transactions in the country:—

- In May, 2017, DIGIDhan Mission has been created with a target to undertake 25 Billion digital transactions during financial year 2017-18.
- A comprehensive enabling environment is being created for accepting the digital payments across the country; Banks have added 12 Lakh additional Point of Sale (PoS) at the merchants against the target of 10 Lakh POS for the Fin year 2017-18 and as on date we have 32 Lakhs PoS.
- Offering a visible discount on digital payment *vis-a-vis* cash by various Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is offering incentive of 7.5% to toll road users on electronically paid fee for the FY 2017-18, 5% for 2018-19 and 2.5% in 2019-20. Ministry