

Various committees have been constituted to usher a radical shift in railway businesses. A one man committee headed by Sri E. Sreedharan was constituted in November, 2014 to suggest a proper system and procedures in order to ensure accountability and transparency in commercial contracts including handing over catering services to IRCTC. The committee suggested tangible changes in catering business. Also, Bibek Debroy committee was constituted in September, 2014 for "Mobilization of Resources for Major Railway Projects and Restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board" and submitted its report in June 2015. The Committee *inter-alia* emphasized the introduction of e-catering and leveraging existing players. In-house group of Chief Commercial Managers was constituted in October, 2015 for working out the modalities of transfer of catering services. The in-house group took an in-depth and inclusive look at the whole gamut of catering services over Indian Railways.

The various committees' reports revealed that unless the existing catering policy itself was changed and contract frameworks completely overhauled, things would not change. It was also realised that unless the quality of food at source is not controlled, onboard quality would not change. Thus, with a comprehensive view of the existing catering services, through various insights and inputs received, a New Catering Policy was announced in the Railway Budget in 2016. The draft of the New Policy was kept in the public domain for taking feedback from multiple stakeholders viz. customers, zonal railways, service providers etc. After much debate and discussion, the New Catering Policy was notified on 27 February 2017, with the objective of providing quality food to rail passengers, by unbundling catering services on trains, and creating a primary distinction between food preparation and food distribution.

#### **Growth of non-cash payment mode**

\*433. SHRI SAMBAHAI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data to substantiate that non-cash payment trend has grown in 2017-18;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the further plans Government has to promote non-cash payment mode?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Non-cash payment transactions have

been rising consistently in FY 17-18 and as on 31st March 2018, 1922.92 crores digital payment transactions have already been achieved. However, the actual number of transactions till 31st March 2018 will be known at a later date. The details of Digital Transactions month-wise for FY 17-18 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Government has taken a various steps, in terms of policies, incentives and promotions to encourage non-cash transactions. Focus is on setting up infrastructure required for digital payment transactions and use of that infrastructure. The following are the major steps taken by Government for promotion of non-cash payment:

- 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 digital payments across the country; Banks have added 12 Lakh additional Point of Sale (PoS) terminals at the merchants against the target of 10 Lakh POS terminals for the Fin year 2017-18 and as on date there are 32 Lakhs PoS terminals.
- 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 of Petroleum and Natural Gas through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is offering (0.75 %) discount to consumer on the purchase of fuel at the Petrol Pumps of OMCs.
- A project has been initiated with CSC SPV in March 2018 to enable 40 Lakhs merchants with BHIM app QR code (Quick response code) for accepting digital payments using scan and pay option.
- To promote merchant payments through Debit cards, UPI and BHIM Aadhaar, Government, had decided to reimburse the MDR for the payments of value up to ₹ 2,000 over these platforms for next two years (starting from 1st January 2018).
- In order to promote digital payments using BHIM app, in April, 2017, Government of India launched BHIM Referral Bonus scheme and BHIM

Merchant Cashback scheme. Under these schemes each of the referrer of the BHIM app gets incentive for referral as well as merchant gets incentive for accepting the payments through BHIM / BHIM UPI. These schemes have been extended till 31st March, 2019.

- Government has also launched scheme to incentivize usage of BHIM Aadhaar by offering cashback of 0.5% of transaction value (maximum up to 2000 Rupees). The scheme has been extended till 31st March, 2019.
- Government of India, Department of Financial Services, through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is incentivizing the installation of BHIM Aadhaar POS machines. The scheme supports the banks to deploy 20 Lakh BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices for making digital payments. Under the scheme, the banks which are deploying BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices and merchant on-boarding will be extended support of up to maximum Rs 1800/- per device.
- Growth of BHIM App Usage: In December, 2016, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app was launched. There is 14.57% month-on-month growth in BHIM.
- Growth of BHIM Platform (UPI) Usage: In August, 2016, BHIM platform (UPI) was launched. There is 11.78% month-on-month growth in BHIM UPI Platform.

**Statement**

*The month on month growth of various Digital Payment modes since demonetization*

*Digital Payment Volume (In Crores)*

Modes	Apr'17	May '17	Jun '17	Jul'17	Aug'17	Sep'17	Oct'17	Nov '17	Dec '17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AePS	5.65	6.81	7.55	7.70	8.11	8.16	8.10	8.31	8.61
BHIM Aadhaar	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
IMPS	6.51	6.67	6.58	6.91	7.57	8.29	8.81	8.95	9.80
USSD	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
UPI + BHIM	0.70	0.92	1.02	1.14	1.66	3.08	7.68	10.49	14.54
Debit Card	26.80	26.47	25.47	25.56	26.54	26.53	27.84	27.09	29.24
RTGS	0.95	1.04	0.98	0.94	0.95	0.96	1.00	1.08	1.09
NEFT	14.32	15.58	15.23	14.81	15.16	15.77	15.88	16.20	16.90
NACH	21.22	19.43	19.69	20.43	20.47	17.60	18.70	19.75	19.11
NETC	0.74	0.81	0.82	0.86	0.97	1.01	0.98	1.07	1.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PPI	35.22	27.80	25.56	27.02	26.11	24.03	24.52	23.62	31.98
Credit Card	10.66	11.53	10.95	11.07	11.53	11.26	12.34	11.59	12.37
Closed Loop Wallet	10.04	10.23	9.73	10.52	10.82	10.62	10.29	10.44	10.49
Internet Banking	10.90	11.81	11.94	11.10	10.83	11.08	11.76	12.06	11.62
Mobile Banking	3.67	4.66	4.60	4.30	4.21	4.67	6.28	5.59	6.83
Others	10.48	11.36	10.81	12.12	11.32	13.45	14.18	15.44	17.31
Monthly Total	157.88	155.15	150.96	154.51	156.26	156.52	168.38	171.70	191.15
Cumulative TOTAL	157.88	313.04	463.99	618.50	774.76	931.29	1,099.66	1,271.36	1,462.51

\*Debit card, credit card, NEFT, RTGS and PPI data is not being published by RBI for the month of March 2018.

Debit Card, credit card and PPI data for the month of February has been taken on pro-rata basis.

Source: RBI, NPCI and Banks