towns including rural areas, Digital Payments programme to increase online cashless transactions, setting-up of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in about 2.80 Lakh Gram Panchayats for efficient delivery of Government Services, re-skilling and up-skilling of IT workforce in new and emerging IT technologies, and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) to bring about digital inclusion.

(b) Yes, Sir. Many countries are building capabilities and offering incentives to compete in the global market to attract IT investments and operations. These include South Africa and a few countries in South East Asia and Eastern Europe.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken concrete steps including introduction of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), implementation of Modified Special Incentive Package scheme (M-SIPS) and the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme to incentivize electronic manufacturing in the country. Research and Development (R&D) initiatives have been launched for "Chips to Systems", design "India Microprocessor", and development of Nano-Electronics and Micro-Electronics.

(d) Yes, Sir. Under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) development initiatives of the Government, fonts, drivers, tools, utilities, and standards have been developed and popular software such as Open Office, Libre Office, web browser Firefox, and email client Thunderbird have been localized in all 22 Indian languages including their alternative scripts. These are made available free to public to enable use of computers in local language as well as to develop applications and content.

Legal framework to regulate online transactions

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

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to establish a legal framework to regulate online transactions, e-wallets, payment gateways, prepaid cards and other payment platforms, if so details thereof;

(b) whether it is planning to implement the recommendations made by the Ratan Watal Committee for same;

(c) the deadline for the implementation of legal framework to protect the privacy and financial details of people using electronic payment; and

(d) the steps taken by the ministry to eradicate/prevent ghost beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry has been assigned the

task of promotion of Digital Payments. As per information received from Department of Economic Affairs, a proposal to create legal framework for transactions through card/digital modes was approved by Cabinet and a Committee was constituted on 23.08.2016 chaired by Shri Ratan P Watal, former Finance Secretary and Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog to review the framework related to digital payments. The Finance Minister in his budget speech on 01.02.2017 has announced (i) creation of Payment Regulatory Board (PRB) in Reserve Bank by replacing Board of Payments and Settlement Systems (BPSS) and (ii) comprehensive review of PSS Act, 2007.

A draft bill incorporating amendments in PSS Act, 2007 has been prepared and Inter-Ministerial committee has been constituted on 03.11.2017 to examine the draft bill and finalize the amendment to PSS Act, 2007.

(c) Government of India has constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice Shri B N Srikrishna to study various issues relating to data protection in India and make specific suggestions on principles to be considered for data protection in India and to suggest a draft Data Protection Bill. The committee has put out a white paper on data protection and has held four stakeholder consultation meetings. The feedback received is presently being analysed by the committee.

(d) Government in consultation with RBI has amended Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 vide G.S.R 538(E) dated 01.06.2017, whereby bank accounts are required to be seeded with Aadhaar numbers, PAN numbers etc which will serve to identify the ghost beneficiaries.

Technology to stop cyber crimes

†891. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
   CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:
   SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cyber crimes are increasing on a large scale day by day;

(b) whether in view of the increasing incidents of cyber crimes, the Ministry is working towards developing a technology through which incidents of various crimes can be prevented from entering into the cyber space and their prompt monitoring could be ensured; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.