

require that the intermediaries, which includes social media platforms, shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable and unlawful in any way.

Government is committed to tackle hate speech and misinformation and is open to any new constructive idea in this regard. The proposed amendment to Intermediaries Guidelines Rules is a step in this direction.

**Development of economy through  
data localisation**

1945. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believes that data localisation will help develop the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted or commissioned any studies to assess the costs of data localisation on small and medium businesses and start ups, similar to the exercise that was conducted by the European Union which did a comprehensive assessment of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance cost on small businesses and startups;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not commissioning such a study?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st July 2017, *vide* OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to look into all aspects relating to personal data protection. The Committee gave its report on 27th July, 2018. The Committee also submitted a draft Personal Data Protection Bill, *vide* consultations were held on the draft bill and open feedback was invited on the contents of the bill. These are currently being processed and it is proposed to table the bill in Parliament. The Report and the Draft Bill of the Srikrishna Committee are available at: <https://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework>. In the report the Committee has analyzed

various aspects pertaining to cross-border transfer of personal data including the benefits and costs of imposing restrictions on flow of personal data outside the country.

#### **Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme for Electronics and IT**

1946. SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons which necessitated a separate Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and IT; and

(b) whether the programme has attracted foreign students as well?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The “National Policy on Electronics (NPE-2012)” and the “National Policy on Information Technology (NPIT-2012)” provided thrust to R&D, Innovation and IP generation. NPIT 2012 suggested that IT/ITES industry to grow from ‘service based’ model to a ‘product based’ growth model, hence there is a need to enhance the availability of Ph.D.s in the country in this sector. It was estimated that 25% of the employees required in IT/ITES and electronics-system design ought to be at Ph.D. level. Enhancing the number of PhDs in these sectors is essential to create such an ecosystem. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme in 2014 “To enhance the number of Ph.D.s in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors” now known as “Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme for Electronics and IT”. Out of 934 Full Time Ph.D. candidates enrolled, two are foreign students.

#### **Threat of mobile games**

1947. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that dangerous mobile games like Blue Whale, PUBG, etc. are becoming serious threat to the children;

(b) whether Government has any plan and mechanism to stop such games;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?