Campaigns to make public aware about cyber threats

1637. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has undertaken wide-scale campaigns to make public aware about cyber threats like data theft, phishing and ransomware attacks and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether Government has maintained State-wise data on effectiveness of these campaigns in reducing cyber crimes and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   whether Government proposes to introduce a 24x7 nationwide cyber security helpline number to specifically deal with cyber crimes and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) Government has taken several measures to make people aware about cyber threats. These, inter alia, include:–

(i)   Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through a programme, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and to make public aware about cyber threats like data theft, phishing and ransomware attacks. A dedicated website for information security awareness (https://www.infosecawareness.in) provides the relevant awareness material.

(ii)   The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and networks on regular basis which are published on its website "www.cert-in.org.in". Regarding securing digital payments, 35 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.

(iii) To spread awareness on cyber crime, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has taken several steps including dissemination of messages on cyber crime through MHA Twitter handle @CyberDost, Radio campaign, publishing of Handbook for Adolescents/Students, publishing of 'Information Security Best practices' for the benefit of Govt. Officials, organizing of Cyber Safety

and Security Awareness weeks in association with police department in different States/UTs etc.

(iv) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 23 trainings covering 692 participants conducted in the year 2019.

(b) MeitY does not maintain such data.

(c) National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has been operationalized to enable citizens to online report cyber crime incidents pertaining to all types of cyber crimes, with a special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Incidents reported on this portal are attended by the respective Law Enforcement Authorities of States. A nationwide helpline number (155260) is also made functional to help public in filing complaints through the portal. Further, CERT-In operates 24x7 Incident Response Help Desk wherein cyber security incidents can be reported via toll-free telephone number, email or fax.

Awareness about digital payments transactions

1638. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that number of digital payments through UPI has increased significantly;

(b) the steps that Government is taking to increase awareness about digital payment transactions; and

(c) in what manner Government is planning to address the challenge of expanding payment acceptance points across retail merchant networks, in the wake of increased payment transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that number of digital payments through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has increased significantly. Total number of Digital transactions over UPI