

Hiring of social media monitoring agency

2107. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that UIDAI has decided to drop its decision to hire a social media monitoring agency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the said move was meant to mount surveillance on social media platforms; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said tender was floated through Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal by UIDAI on 18.07.2018 and was not pursued further and thus automatically cancelled.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of electronic items from India

2108. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the volume of electronic export from India during the last three years; and
- (b) what actions have been taken by the Government to increase the electronic export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) The volume and value of electronic export from India during the last three years is as under:

| | Value (INR Crore) | Volume (INR Crore) |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| FY16-17 | 39,980 | 146 |
| FY17-18 | 41,220 | 293 |
| FY18-19 | 61,908 | 405 |

(b) The Govt. is making efforts to promote electronics manufacturing and exports in the country. Steps taken by the Government for promotion of electronics manufacturing and exports in the country including the details of the incentives provided to the electronics industry are given in the Statement (See below).

Additionally, the following package of incentives has been made available for promoting indigenization and export of electronics from the country:

- (i) **Procedural simplification for import of second hand manufacturing plant and machinery:** Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) *vide* Notification dated 11.06.2018 has simplified the import of used plant and machinery having a residual life of at least 5 years for use by the electronics manufacturing industry through the amendment of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
- (ii) **Support for Brand-building and promoting investment in electronics manufacturing and export of electronic goods:** Department of Commerce will support promotion of sector specific visits under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme for ESDM and the India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) would assist MeitY in promoting the Brand India Label in the ESDM sector in overseas market.
- (iii) **Expanding the list of capital goods required for manufacture of electronic goods for Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemption:** A list of capital goods, not manufactured in India, required for manufacture of specified electronic goods has been notified by the Department of Revenue *vide* Notification No.22/2019-Customs dated 06.07.2019. This will help reduce capital expenditure for setting up/ expansion of existing units and address the disabilities to a certain extent.

- (iv) **Enhancement of incentive under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for electronic goods:** In order to give a boost to electronics exports, MEIS rate has been enhanced eg. from 2% to 4% for Cellular Mobiles.
- (v) **Relaxation of ageing restriction imposed for duty free import of electronic goods for repair or reconditioning, from 3 years to 7 years:** The Department of Revenue vide Notification No.60/2018-Customs dated 11.09.2018 has relaxed the ageing restriction for specified electronic goods manufactured in India and re-imported into India for repairs or for reconditioning.

Statement

The steps taken by the Government to improve the domestic manufacturing of electronic goods

1. **National Policy on Electronics 2019:** The National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) has been notified on 25.02.2019. The vision of NPE 2019 is to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.
2. **100% FDI:** As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, FDI up-to 100% under the automatic route is permitted for electronics manufacturing, subject to applicable laws/ regulations; security and other conditions.
3. **Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS):** The scheme was notified on 27.07.2012 to provide financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the electronics manufacturing sector. It has been amended in August, 2015 to extend the period of the scheme, enhance scope of the Scheme by including 15 more product verticals, and attract more investment. The scheme was further amended in January, 2017 to expedite the investments. The scheme provides subsidy for capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs. The incentives are available for 44 categories/ verticals of electronic products and components covering entire electronics manufacturing value chain. The scheme was open to receive applications till 31.12.2018 and is in the implementation mode.

4. **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme:** Electronics Manufacturing Cluster Scheme has been notified on 22.10.2012 to provide support for creation of world-class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities for attracting investment. Under the Scheme, 20 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) measuring an area of 3,565 acres with Total project cost of INR 3,898 crore including Government Grant-in-Aid of INR 1,577 crore have been approved.
5. **Electronics Development Fund (EDF):** Electronics Development Fund (EDF) has been set up as a "Fund of Funds" to participate in professionally managed "Daughter Funds" which in turn will provide risk capital to startups and companies developing new technologies in the area of electronics and Information Technology (IT). This fund is expected to foster R&D and innovation in these technology sectors. INR 659 crore has been committed through EDF to 11 Daughter Funds with a targeted corpus of INR 5,500 crore.
6. **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)** has been notified to promote domestic value addition in mobile handsets and their parts/ components manufacturing. As a result, India has rapidly started attracting investments into this sector and significant manufacturing capacities have been set up in the country. The manufacturing of mobile handsets and their parts/ components has been steadily moving from Semi Knocked Down (SKD) to Completely Knocked Down (CKD) level, thereby progressively increasing the domestic value addition.
7. **Tariff Structure** has been rationalized to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, including, *inter-alia*, Cellular mobile handsets, Televisions, Electronic components, Set Top Boxes for TV, LED products and Medical electronics equipment.
8. **Exemption from Basic Customs Duty on capital goods:** Notified capital goods for manufacture of specified electronic goods are permitted for import at "NIL" Basic Customs Duty.
9. **Simplified import of used plant and machinery:** The import of used plant and machinery having a residual life of at least 5 years for use by the electronics

manufacturing industry has been simplified through the amendment of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2016, *vide* Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Notification dated 11.06.2018.

10. **Relaxing the ageing restriction:** The Department of Revenue *vide* Notification No.60/2018-Customs dated 11.09.2018 has amended the Notification No.158/95-Customs dated 14.11.1995, relaxing the ageing restriction from 3 years to 7 years for specified electronic goods manufactured in India and re-imported into India for repairs or reconditioning.
11. **Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order:** To encourage 'Make in India' and to promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in India with a view to enhancing income and employment, the Government has issued Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 *vide* the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Order dated 15.06.2017 and subsequent revisions *vide* Order dated 28.05.2018 and 29.05.2019. In furtherance of the aforesaid Order, MeitY has notified 11 Electronic Products viz., Desktop PCs, Laptop PCs, Tablet PCs, Dot Matrix Printers, Contact and Contactless Smart Cards, LED Products, Biometric Access Control/ Authentication Devices, Biometric Finger Print Sensors, Biometric Iris Sensors and Servers *vide* Notification dated 14.09.2017 and Cellular Mobile Phones *vide* Notification dated 01.08.2018.
12. **Compulsory Registration Order (CRO):** MeitY has notified "Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012" for mandatory compliance to ensure safety of Indian citizens by curbing import of substandard and unsafe electronic goods into India. 44 Product Categories have been notified under the CRO.
13. **National Centre of Excellence in Large Area Flexible Electronics (NCFLEX)** has been set up in IIT-Kanpur with the objectives to promote R&D; Manufacturing; Ecosystem; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.

14. **National Centre of Excellence for Technology on Internal Security (NCETIS)** has been set up at IIT-Bombay with the objective to address the internal security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.
15. **National Centre of Excellence for Next Generation AMOLED Displays, OLED Lighting and OPV Products** has been set up at IIT-Madras with a mandate to collaborate with stakeholders to develop next-generation, state-of-the-art, high-volume and cost effective electronic components based on organic devices to address requirements through joint technology developments, to realize indigenous technologies for manufacturing.

Misappropriation of data in social media platforms

2109. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noticed any misappropriation of data in social media platforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the extent to which the personal data protection legislation will be helpful in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Based on the media reports regarding misappropriation of data and interference by Cambridge Analytica (CA) in Indian elections, Government had approached Cambridge Analytica as well as Facebook separately on 23.03.2018 seeking clarifications. Cambridge Analytica responded on 03.04.2018 that they do not have any Facebook data of Indian citizens. On 05.04.2018, Facebook informed the Government that data of estimated 562,455 Indian's may have been accessed by Cambridge Analytica through installations of the App developed by GSR (Global Science Research) and installed by Indians. As there were perceived inconsistencies, Government again approached both companies