

477/2018/O/o SECY(AGRICULTURE)



भारत सरकार
Government of India
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
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D.O.No.

No. 12(11)/2017-DPD-Meity (Pt. Secretary, (Agri. Coopn & FV) दिनांक / Dated. 18.10.2018

E-Office Dy. No.

345477

Date

22/10/2018

Subject: Caution regarding fraudulent activities carried out in the name of Government schemes

Sir/Madam,

Digital Payment is one of the prime focus areas of Government of India. Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion of digital payments, and is co-coordinating with concerned stakeholders for promotion of digital payments.

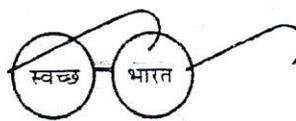
2. MeitY is receiving many grievances related with digital payments, which are being addressed on priority basis. On analysis of past grievances, it has been observed that many fake agencies/individuals are involved in fraudulent practices, in the name of Government organizations. Some of the common modus operandi observed are as given:

- Using name similar to Government schemes, with minor spelling change and operating "Phishing sites"
- Using the logo of Government schemes, photo of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister etc, in their websites
- Providing link of Government websites, to display affiliation with Government
- Alluring citizens by promising Government jobs, by issuing appointment letters on fake Government Letters, and extorting money.
- Misuse of Government schemes for fake allocation of Distributorship etc.
- Specially targeting and building trap around latest announced Government schemes and incentives.

3. In one of the reported instance, e-gram Digital (website - egramdigital.co.in) was misusing the Government Flagship Digital India programme, for extorting money from citizens, across many States, for becoming State Partners and Distributors for fake



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scheme "Apka Angootha, Apka Bank" and duping citizens to make payments for biometric devices. In another instance, "PM Ujjwala Yojana" was misused for fake allotment of LPG Distributorship, via spurious website (<http://www.ujwalajoyana.org>). It may be noted that there is one letter difference between "Ujjwala" and "Ujwala". Similarly, fraudulent appointment letters were issued on the fake Government letterheads.

4. All Government Ministries/ Departments/ organizations are required to take due diligence to ensure that their schemes are not misrepresented by fake/fraudulent entities for extorting money from innocent citizens. The following steps may be considered in this regard:

- i. Creation of awareness in citizens through web portal, social media and other appropriate channels, for protecting them from fake schemes and continuously posting caution messages on Facebook, Twitter etc. mentioning that the fake schemes don't belong to Ministries/Departments etc.
- ii. In case of identification of any fake scheme, immediate action may be taken by informing the police and concerned organizations like NIXI.

5. We solicit co-operation from all Government Ministries /Departments /Organizations to safeguard citizens from fraudulent activities and to build trust in digital payment ecosystem.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,


(Geeta Kathpalia)

To:

- All Secretaries, Government of India

Copy To:

- Chief Secretary of all States/UTs in India