FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY AT AIRPORTS

1149.   SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether Government has framed any guidelines to protect and safeguard data collected and stored while using Facial Recognition Technology at airports in the absence of Data Protection Act; and

(b) the number of governmental institutions and private bodies which have been provided access to use the aforesaid data, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): The Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) is built on the fundamental tenets of privacy. There is no central storage of passenger's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data in Digi Yatra using Facial Recognition Technology. The passenger data is encrypted and stored in the passenger's smartphone wallet.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) No. 09/2022 dated 18.04.2022 covering this feature of Digi Yatra. The data is shared only for a limited time duration with the origin airport where passenger ID needs to be validated. The data is purged from the system after 24 hours of the departure of the flight.

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