GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2543
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2021

USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY BY NTPC

2543 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of **POWER**
be pleased to state:

(a) the legal framework under which the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) seeks to implement Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) for employees attendance;

(b) whether Government intends to expand usage of FRT to other PSUs;

(c) the legal justification by Government on how use of FRT by NTPC will not violate the Fundamental Right to Privacy of its employees;

(d) whether employees will be required to provide explicit consent to be subjected to FRT; and

(e) if so, details thereof including how such consent will be acquired and the course of action for those employees who do not provide such explicit consent?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) : NTPC follows all laws of the land, applicable for electronic and Biometric Data in implementation of Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). As a progressive organisation, NTPC has been embracing the latest technologies with reference to capturing employees' attendance without compromising the discipline, quality and privacy of the individual. On this background, NTPC has been using biometric attendance for its employees including FRT. The use of FRT has increased during COVID times as it provides contact-less capturing of employee attendance thereby enhancing safety and protecting health of employees. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Ministry of Power (MoP) take their own decision on attendance protocol based on their Corporate Governance requirements. MoP has not issued any instructions in this regard.

(c) to (e) : NTPC has issued internal policy guideline on Security of Biometric Data captured for Attendance and Access control system in NTPC. As per policy of NTPC, consent of employees shall not be required for implementation of FRT.

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