

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. 87

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

USE OF GEOSPATIAL DATA

*87. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to provide a conducive environment to Indian companies in order to enable them to make India self-reliant in producing and using their own geospatial data/information as also compete with foreign companies in the global space;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *87 FOR 27.07.2023 REGARDING 'USE OF GEOSPATIAL DATA' RAISED BY SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

(a) & (b): Acknowledging that the availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of Geospatial Data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy, boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance the preparedness of the country for emergency response, the Government, vide the “Guidelines for acquiring and producing Geospatial Data and Geospatial Data Services including Maps” dated 15th February, 2021 (Geospatial Guidelines), has dispensed with the requirement for prior approval, security clearance, license or any other restrictions on the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization of Geospatial Data and Maps within the territory of India. With the issuance of the Geospatial Guidelines, the Indian Entities, whether in Government or outside, are now free to acquire, collect, generate, prepare, disseminate, store, share, publish, distribute, update, digitize and/or create Geospatial Data, including Maps, of any spatial accuracy within the territory of India including underwater within its territorial waters by using any Geospatial Technology, subject to regulations on attributes in the negative lists. Terrestrial Mobile Mapping survey, Street View survey and surveying in Indian territorial waters have been permitted only for Indian Entities irrespective of accuracy. The Guidelines define threshold value for spatial accuracy in relation to Maps/Geospatial Data and mandate that the Maps/Geospatial Data of spatial accuracy/value finer than the threshold value can only be created and/or owned by Indian Entities and must be stored and processed in India. Foreign companies and foreign owned or controlled Indian companies can license from Indian Entities digital Maps/Geospatial Data of spatial accuracy/value finer than the threshold value only for the purpose of serving their customers in India. Access to such Maps/Geospatial Data can be made available only through APIs that do not allow Maps/Geospatial Data to pass through Licensee Company or its servers. Digital Maps/Geospatial Data of spatial accuracy/value up to the threshold value can be uploaded to the cloud but those with accuracy finer than the threshold value have to be stored and processed only on a domestic cloud or on servers physically located within territory of India.

Further, the Government notified on 28th December, 2022 the National Geospatial Policy, 2022 (NGP) to strengthen the Geospatial sector for supporting national development, economic prosperity and a thriving information economy. The NGP builds on conducive environment generated by the Geospatial Guidelines. While the Geospatial Guidelines deregulated the Geospatial sector by liberalizing Geospatial data acquisition/production/access, the NGP takes it further by laying down an overarching framework for holistic development of the Geospatial ecosystem. The NGP recognizes the importance of locally available and locally relevant Maps and Geospatial Data in improved planning and management of resources and better serving the specific needs of the Indian population. The NGP aims to create an enabling ecosystem thereby providing a conducive environment to Indian Companies that will enable them to make India self-reliant in producing and using their own Geospatial data/information as also compete with foreign companies in the global space.

(c): Does not arise.
