

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 844**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.02.2024

**DEVELOPMENT OF METAVERSE IN THE COUNTRY**

**844. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the first version of the Indian metaverse- 'Bharatmeta', developed by Kiya.ai, an India-based company specializing in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technology solutions;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to develop its own indigenous and citizen-centric Metaverse for the country so as to protect sensitive data and make the platform inclusive and accessible to all; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the stipulated timeline, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a), (b) and (c): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that the Internet and all applications on internet in India are Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable to all our Digital Nagriks. The Government considers the next decade as 'India Techade', a decade full of technology opportunities for young Indians, and its policies are designed to enable startups across the spectrum of tech opportunities including Metaverse.

Metaverse is the latest variant of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality and is one of the basket of emerging technologies that take the future of internet through AI, Web 3.0, IOT, 6G etc. The technologies related to Metaverse are in its early stages, and its impact is likely to grow as the technology continues to evolve and improve.

The Government recognizes the potential of emerging technologies and is committed to supporting startups and fostering the growth of the metaverse, AR/VR innovation, and other related technologies as part of its digital technology initiatives.

The Government has recently enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 which covers all platform intermediaries including those that are Metaverse apps. This Act provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the rights of the individuals to protect their personal data and for the data fiduciaries the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes. The Act also puts the obligation on Data Fiduciary to protect personal data in its possession or under its control by taking reasonable security safeguards to prevent personal data breach.

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