DIGI YATRA POLICY

22.   SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA

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

a) the aims and objectives of the Digi Yatra Policy;

b) whether it is a fact that despite the Digi Yatra App being voluntary, many cases have been reported that security personnel at entry gates have been collecting facial biometrics without one's knowledge;

c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to address and rectify such reported cases; and

d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure compliance of the Digi Yatra Policy with the existing data protection and privacy policies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Digi Yatra aims at providing seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports. Its main objective is to enhance passenger experience by eliminating the need for verification of ticket and ID at multiple touch points and to achieve better throughput through existing infrastructure using Digital Framework.

(b) to (c): Digi Yatra use is purely voluntary. There have been some media reports on collecting facial biometrics without one's knowledge. Wide publicity has been given through various media means, as well as standee at airports, that Digi Yatra is voluntary and one can avail it only if so desired.

(d): To ensure compliance of data protection and privacy policies, the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) is built on the fundamental tenets of privacy. By design/default, there is no central storage of passenger's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data. All the passenger data is encrypted and stored in the passenger's smartphone wallet and 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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