

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 2468
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2025

MECHANISM TO VERIFY AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

2468. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific mechanisms in place for verifying the age of social media users and obtaining verifiable parental consent for children;
- (b) whether the Ministry has assessed the potential privacy risks associated with age verification methods like ID uploads or biometric checks; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering adopting or adapting international best practices, such as those from the United Kingdom (UK) or Australia, for ensuring children's safety on social media platforms, if so, the timeline therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (Act) provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the rights of the individual including children to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes. Government has studied the best practices from various countries of the world during the drafting of the Act. The draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 (Rules) fall within the scope of the Act and public comments/feedback have been obtained on these Rules to finalise it. All the matters mentioned in the draft Rules related to the children's data, parental consent and personal data breach etc. are within the ambit of the provisions of the Act. The draft Rules mention that Data Fiduciaries processing personal data of children should adopt appropriate technical and organizational measures ensuring that verifiable consent of the parent is obtained before processing of any personal data of a child and should observe due diligence for checking that the individual identifying herself as the parent, is an adult.

All the Data Fiduciaries are obligated to protect personal data by taking reasonable security safeguards to prevent personal data breach. In the event of any personal data breach, the Data Fiduciaries have to intimate about such breach to the Data Protection Board and each affected Data Principal. Further, on receipt of such intimation the Data Protection Board after an inquiry, may impose monetary penalty as per the provisions of the Act.
