GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3803** ANSWERED ON 03/04/2025

CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR INDIAN COMPANIES

3803 MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND 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 so as to compete with foreign companies in the global space; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Yes, the Government, vide the "Guidelines for acquiring and producing Geospatial Data and Geospatial Data Services including Maps", has enabled the Indian Entities, whether in Government or outside, to freely 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 Maps/Geospatial Data of spatial accuracy/value finer than the threshold value, defined in Geospatial Guidelines, can only be created and/or owned by Indian Entities and must be stored and processed in India.

In the conducive environment generated by Geospatial Guidelines, the Government has notified the National Geospatial Policy, 2022 (NGP) which 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. Further, the Pan-India Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) network of total 1045 stations has been established to provide real-time high accuracy surveying & mapping data which are being used by Geospatial sector.
