GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1017
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

1017. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the technology of "Artificial Intelligence and Facial" Recognition Powered Solution for Telecom Sim Subscriber Verification - ASTR is in existence and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether it is a fact that facial recognition software is being run on the images of SIM-card subscribers and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether a notification was issued and circulated regarding the use of ASTR and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the details of the storage and security of data collected through ASTR?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) to (d)   Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) is an indigenous facial recognition analysis solution which runs on the images of subscribers available in the Customer Acquisition Form (CAF) and can detect the cases where mobile connections have been acquired on different names but similar subscriber images. Instructions have been issued to concerned Departmental units. Due security measures have been adopted for storage and security of data collected through ASTR.

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