

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2338
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 15.3.2023

DIGITAL PRIVACY OF CITIZENS

2338. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of repeated instances where retailers demand for mobile phone numbers of consumers under various pretexts and often by citing security purposes and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is mandatory for a customer in India to furnish their mobile number to a retailer;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the digital privacy of citizens including legislative interventions and policies in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): While the Government recognises many benefits accrue to citizens from expansion of the Internet and delivery of services through it, it is aware of some business entities collecting personal data of customers citing various grounds.

(b) and (c): No business entity is required to collect the personal information or data from consumers unless it is specifically essential for delivering certain services.

(d): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has prepared a draft Bill, titled 'The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022'. The draft Bill sets out the rights and duties of the citizen (Digital Nagrik) and the obligations of the Data Fiduciary for protecting the same, thereby empowering the citizen to secure data privacy. Extensive consultation on the draft Bill has been undertaken to generate necessary feedback to formulate the provisions of the related legislative proposal.
