

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 557
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

CONCERNS OF BIG TECH AND SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS

**557. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:
SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether age-gating, a step to prevent children below 18 years from accessing various apps, is among the biggest concerns of the big tech and social media firms, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether an extended transition period to the new regime has also been an industry ask;
- (c) whether the Government has invited start-ups, e-commerce players, small businesses, advocacy groups and law firms besides big tech companies and held discussions with them about the transition period required for implementation of data privacy law and also deliberated on the rulebook for digital platforms to comply with the laws and schemes implemented; and
- (d) if so, the details along with the present status thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable to all Digital Nagriks.

Age-gating as provided under section 9 of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“DPDP Act”) is mandatory for all data fiduciaries or platforms to ensure before allowing on-boarding or before seeking to process personal data of children. A framework the responsibility to verify the age is of data fiduciary or platforms, alone. This obligation is clear and unambiguous in DPDP Act.

(b): Regarding the compliance of different provisions of the DPDP Act and given the fact that DPDP Act represents new regime of compliance for data fiduciary or platforms, the Data Fiduciary has given representation regarding suggestions on transition period to come under the new compliance regime of the DPDP Act.

(c): Every policy making process of the Government in building global standard cyber laws for India Teachade involves extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders including consumers, start-ups, small businesses and other enterprises.

(d): The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“DPDP Act”) was enacted on 11th August 2023. The Government has initiated the process in developing draft rules under the DPDP Act.
