

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-991  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023**

**DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY IN DIGITAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**

**991 SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH and FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific measures implemented to ensure robust data security and privacy within the framework of the Global Initiative on Digital Health, specifically regarding the safeguarding of sensitive health information;
- (b) whether the Government has specifically allocated funds/resources for enhancing data security protocols and technologies; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

**(a) to (c)** The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)- a WHO-managed network and platform has been launched during India's G20 Presidency with an aim to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025. World Health Organization (WHO) serves as the Secretariat for the strategy implementation to converge and convene global standards, best practices and resources to fast track digital health system transformation.

Government of India has undertaken various measures to ensure robust data security and privacy. These include:

- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA), enacted on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes the need to process personal data for lawful purposes by the data fiduciaries. In addition, the Act also provides for the rights of the individuals to protect their personal data.
- The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as—'electronic commerce', which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies.
- Several guidelines and notifications have been issued under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), which set out the minimum standards for data privacy and protection. These include Health Data Management Policy, Data Privacy Policy and ABDM Health Records (PHR), Mobile App Privacy Policy.

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