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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. : 44
(To be answered on the 28th November 2024)

DIGI YATRA POLICY

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*44.   DR. SHASHI THAROOR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
          नागर विमानन मंत्री   **be pleased to state:-**

(a) whether the government has taken cognizance of the recommendations made by NITI Aayog relating to privacy concerns, particularly relating to biometric data, on the Digi Yatra Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

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ANSWER

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Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
          नागर विमानन मंत्री   **(Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu)**

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR REPLY ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING DIGI YATRA POLICY ASKED BY DR. SHASHI THAROOR.

(a) & (b): NITI Aayog had published a White Paper titled RESPONSIBLE AI #AIForAll - Adopting the Framework: A Use Case Approach on Facial Recognition Technology in June 2023. This White Paper had mention of Digi Yatra program as one of the use case of Facial Verification Technology (FVT), within the broader and larger scope of Facial Recognition Technology (RFT). No other recommendation on privacy concerns on Digi Yatra has been received from NITI Aayog. Digi Yatra initiative has taken full cognizance of the recommendations of the said White Paper on privacy and handling of Biometric data. The Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem and the Digi Yatra Apps are built on the fundamental tenets of Privacy by Design (PbD). By design/default, there is no central storage of passenger's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data. All the passenger data is encrypted and stored in the passenger's smartphone wallet and shared only for a limited time duration with the origin airport where passenger ID needs to be validated. The data is purged from the system after 24 hours of the departure of the flight.

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