

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1792
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2025**

AVAILABILITY OF CONTOUR PLANS FOR PUBLIC USE

1792. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make the contour plans and Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) of the country publicly accessible, especially for landslide-vulnerable regions such as the Western Ghats to facilitate participatory planning and monitoring of environmental violations;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the platforms on which such data will be made available and the resolution of data proposed to be released;**
- (c) whether the Gati Shakti initiative or similar policy mandates release of contour plans and DEMs for public use, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for restricting access to such data;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to consider making these data sets available for Disaster Management, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure that high-resolution DEMs and contour data are accessible for research/planning/monitoring by citizens/local bodies, particularly in ecologically sensitive and disaster-prone zones?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

**विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)**

(a) to (b): Currently the DEM generated from the topographical datasets of Survey of India (Sol) and the contours in the Open Series Maps (OSM) are available on <https://onlinemaps.surveyofindia.gov.in>. Further, the Government of India has recently announced the

National Geospatial Mission (NGM) under which the generation of high-resolution Ortho-imagery (ORI) & high accuracy Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the entire country has been envisaged. These can be used for the different application in various sectors including facilitation of participatory planning and monitoring of environmental violations in Landslide-Vulnerable regions such as the Western Ghats.

(c) to (e): Guidelines for acquiring and producing Geospatial Data and Geospatial Data Services including Maps, 2021 provides that all Geospatial Data produced using public funds, except the classified geospatial data collected by security/law enforcement agencies, shall be made easily accessible for scientific, economic and developmental purposes to all Indian Entities and without any restrictions on their use. Such access shall be given free of any charges to Government agencies and at fair and transparent pricing to others. National Geospatial Policy, 2022 further provides for establishing and strengthening an integrative interface for all digital data having location dimension collected or developed utilizing public funds, for easy access, sharing, use and reuse. Also, the topographic data and other Geospatial Data produced by Survey of India using public funds is treated as common good and easily available. Accordingly, the DEM/contour data of ecologically sensitive areas and disaster-prone zones (like Coastal Areas and River basins), that have been generated by Sol under various National Projects, are accessible to all Indian entities.
