

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1645
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.12.2025

THIRD PARTY APPS

1645. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that certain third-party apps permitted by common apps take and use data provided by the users without direct consent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government is aware that e-commerce websites use certain undisclosed, unidentifiable 'cookies' that breach the data privacy of users and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 ("Act") provides for the processing of digital personal data by recognising both the rights of the individual to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

The Act mandates that personal data be processed by the Data Fiduciaries, including any third-party apps, with free, informed, specific and unambiguous consent. It must be preceded or accompanied with the notice of data collection, its intended purposes and defined storage period.

If any Data Fiduciary, including third-party apps, process personal data without valid consent and legitimate purposes permitted under the Act, it amounts to a violation of the Act.

In such cases, on receiving the complaints, the Data Protection Board will conduct an inquiry and may impose monetary penalties as provided under the Act.

The Act, and Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 ("Rules") have been notified on 13 November, 2025. The Rules mandate an eighteen-month period to allow Data Fiduciaries to implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to achieve compliance with the provisions of the Act.

During this period, data protection continues to be governed by the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011 under the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act).

Data fiduciaries are required to follow the SPDI framework, including consent requirements, purpose limitation, security safeguards, and grievance redressal mechanisms.
