

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4091
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.08.2026

**RURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON DATA PRINCIPAL
RIGHTS**

4091. SHRI KARAN BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the status of phased implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 including functioning of the Data Protection Board of India since 13th November, 2025 and preparedness for Consent Manager registration from 13th November, 2026;
- (b) whether Village Level Entrepreneurs operating the over 5.8 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) who process citizens' Aadhaar, banking and health data daily, qualify as "Data Fiduciary" under the Act and their compliance obligations, if any;
- (c) whether a rural awareness programme on data principal rights — consent, correction, erasure and grievance redressal — is proposed through the CSC network particularly in aspirational districts such as Gonda; and
- (d) the vernacular/simplified grievance redressal mechanism, if any, being designed for rural citizens with limited digital literacy as most CSC users in districts like Gonda lack access to formal written consent processes?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 ("Act") provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the rights of the individual to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

The Act, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 ("Rules") notified on 13 November, 2025 provide a timeline for phased implementation of its provisions over an eighteen-month transition period, including the establishment of the Data Protection Board ("Board"). The Rules specify the following implementation timelines:

- Phase 1: Establishment and operationalisation of the Data Protection Board of India
 - As notified, the Board is composed of a Chairperson and four Members, who are to be appointed through a Search-cum-Selection Committee. The advertisement for recruitment to the posts of Chairperson and Members was published in the *Employment News* on 6 June 2026.
 - The Board has to function in a digital manner.
- Phase 2 (within one year): Registration and functioning of Consent Managers
- Phase 3 (within eighteen months): Compliance obligations for Data Fiduciaries including data principal rights, security safeguards and breach notification.

Under the DPDP Act, a Data Fiduciary is any person who alone or in conjunction with others determines the purpose and means of processing personal data. A Data Fiduciary, the applicable obligations under the Act and Rules would include, when the relevant provisions come into force:

- having a valid contract with the Data Processors
- providing valid notices accessible in 22 Indian languages and obtaining consent where required;
- implementing reasonable security safeguards;
- responding to Data Principal requests;
- facilitating correction and erasure where applicable;
- establishing an effective grievance redressal mechanism and prominently publishing on its website or application the period, not exceeding ninety days, within which grievances shall be addressed
- reporting personal data breaches; and
- complying with other obligations prescribed under the Act and Rules.

Key obligations of a data processor (an entity that processes personal data on behalf of a data fiduciary):

- Process data only on behalf of the Data Fiduciary
- Ensure reasonable security safeguards
- Comply with contractual and legal requirements specified in the processing contract with the Data Fiduciary and support compliance with the DPDP Act

CSC e-Governance Services India Limited provides assisted access to digital services through its VLEs, who support citizens in understanding and availing various Government services. CSC VLE is not authorised to collect and store any data of citizens during the course of providing services. Citizens can also access grievance redressal support through the CSC Helpdesk (14599), Digital Seva Portal and the State/District CSC network.

Awareness programme:

Capacity building and public awareness form integral components of the Government's strategy for promoting data protection and cyber security. Training programmes are conducted across sectors to strengthen IT security capabilities, while public awareness initiatives—including Cyber Security Awareness Month, Safer Internet Day, workshops, conferences, expert sessions, and digital outreach campaigns—are undertaken to educate citizens on online safety, secure digital transactions, their rights and responsibilities under the DPDP Act, and responsible use of digital services.

Through the combined implementation of legal, technical, institutional, and awareness measures, the Government is committed to fostering a secure, resilient, and trustworthy digital ecosystem that safeguards the interests of citizens, businesses, and critical national infrastructure.
