GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3108.

DATA GENERATED FROM E-COMMERCE

3108. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government can access the personal data of individuals generated from the e-Commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received the responses from the stakeholders on National e-Commerce Policy, 2019;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any policy framework for encouraging the efficiency of domestic e-Commerce companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): The Government on 31st July 2017, vide OM No.3(6)/2017-CLES, constituted a Committee of Experts on Data Protection under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India to study various issues relating to personal data and protection of such personal data. The committee had submitted its report and a draft Personal Data Protection ("PDP") Bill was placed in the public domain on which comments were sought. Based on such feedback, the PDP Bill has been introduced in parliament during the winter session 2019 and the bill has been referred to a joint committee of the parliament.

(c) to (e): The formulation of the National e-Commerce Policy ("the Policy") is under consideration of the Government. The draft Policy seeks to create a
facilitative regulatory environment for growth of e-commerce sector. It is aimed at empowering domestic entrepreneurs and to encourage Make in India while safeguarding interests of the consumers and facilitating job creation.

On the 23rd February, 2019, the first draft of the Policy was placed in public domain for comments/suggestions. Comments from over 120 stakeholders which include Indian and foreign companies, industry associations, think tanks, foreign governments have been received.

A series of meetings have been held at the level of Secretary, DPIIT with different stakeholders, including major e-commerce companies, start-ups, industry associations, think-tanks, academicians etc. as well as data centre providers, logistics companies, export promotion councils to discuss the issues facing the sector and the provisions contained in the draft Policy.

Since e-Commerce is a new issue, it has necessitated detailed consultations over the last few months to ensure that the policy is crafted in a manner that interests of all stakeholders are taken into account.

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