FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

199.   **SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI**

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

(a) the details of the airports in the country where Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) has been introduced;

(b) whether any timeline has been fixed by the Government to implement the system and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of private companies providing FRT services at the airports;

(d) whether the selection of the companies was done through tendering and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether passengers have been given the option to opt out of FRT processing and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the safeguards taken by the Government to prevent the leakage of passenger data; and

(g) the details of facilities that would come up with the implementation of the system?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
          नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री   **(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

(a) and (b): Digi Yatra has been introduced at Delhi, Bangalore and Varanasi Airports for providing passengers, contactless, paperless check-in and boarding process based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). The implementation of Digi Yatra under phase I is planned at Kolkata, Pune, Vijayawada and Hyderabad Airports by March 2023 and across various airports in the country in phased manner.

(c) and (d): M/s Dataevolve Solutions has built FRT based Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem. It has been selected through a national start-up challenge run by Niti Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission.

(e) to (g): Digi Yatra is a voluntary facility for providing passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at the Airports. In the Digi Yatra process, there is no central storage of passenger's Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data. All the passenger's data is encrypted and stored in the wallet of the passenger's smartphone and shared only for a limited time duration with the airport of travel origin where passenger's Digi Yatra ID needs to be validated. The data is purged from the system within 24 hours of flight. Facilities with implementation of the Digi Yatra provides Touchless Passenger Validation through FRT which results in saving time at various touchpoints like entry to airport, Security Hold Area (SHA) and Boarding Area with no CISF intervention.

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