GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 3532
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th April 2022)

FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

3532.   DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government proposes to equip the airports with facial recognition system;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) names of the airports in the country where the said system is proposed to be set up;

(d) whether Government has set any time line for this purpose and, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any action plan with regard to other aspects taking into account the future security scenario; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

 (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (d): Yes Sir, Facial recognition System is part of the Digi Yatra initiative of the government for providing passengers seamless and hassle-free experience at airports. It is to be implemented in a phased manner. The first phase is planned at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune, Vijayawada, Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad Airports by March 2023. Preliminary testing of the Digi Yatra Biometric boarding system with registration for the 'Day of Travel' at these airports has been completed.

(e) & (f): The requirement of security is dynamic in nature. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the regulatory authority for civil aviation security in the country, in consultation with other concerned agencies and stakeholders, reviews the security arrangements at airports from time to time and upgrade the same as per requirement.

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