

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.09.2020

SOFTWARE TOOL FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

596: DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has engaged National informatics Centre or any such agency to provide Indian States/UTs an efficient software tool for structuring citizen's health data for the effective management of the COVID- 19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware that Kerala had initiated a contract without any appointment procedures or consents with a US-based private PR and marketing firm named Sprinklr for handling health data of nearly 2 lakh people collected as part of COVID- 19 surveillance in the state;
- (d) if so, whether the state government was given any directives by the Ministry in this regards; and
- (e) the steps taken to ensure that the entire shared health data is safely transferred by sprinklr to the government-owned Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) and the residual data left with them be completely destroyed;

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATES FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has engaged National Informatics Centre (NIC) for development & implementation of Aarogya Setu App for effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(c), (d) and (e): Yes, Sir. Ministry is aware of Kerala govt initiating a contract with a US based firm named Sprinklr for handling health data of state people. The contract was challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala wherein MeitY formally as a respondent submitted its inputs elaborating on the provision of IT Act 2000 and recommendations to protect the data of Indian citizens.

The matter is sub judice.
