

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 525
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 6.02.2020

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DATA CENTRES

525. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

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

- (a) whether Government has studied the environmental impact of data centres in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has studied the economic impact of data localisation and restricting access to the flow of data, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has studied if creating data localisation norms will increase costs to the internet architecture within the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Over the past few years there has been a significant shift in the way government services are being delivered to the citizens in that there is a growth in online and mobile based services delivery. This being the case, there has been a significant growth in data centres being set up by government and various agencies to handle the huge volumes of data necessitated by this.

(b) and (c): The Government constituted a committee of expert on data protection, chaired by Justice (Retd) B.N. Srikrishna, Supreme Court of India to study various issues relating to data protection and come out with Data Protection Bill. The committee has examined various pros and cons related to localization and has brought out them in its report. Cost-benefit analysis of data localization has been discussed in detail in chapter 6 of the report. Further, as clearly brought out in chapter 6 of the report, in order to protect the national interest, effective enforcement of Indian Law, protection from external vulnerabilities, preventing foreign surveillance and facilitation of law enforcement access, the committee has recommended some data localization in the bill. Based on the recommendation of the committee of experts and a multitude of feedback received from diverse stakeholders, the draft bill has been duly updated and the PDP Bill has been introduced in parliament during the winter session 2019. The bill has been referred to a Joint committee of parliament & the committee has started its deliberations on the subject.
