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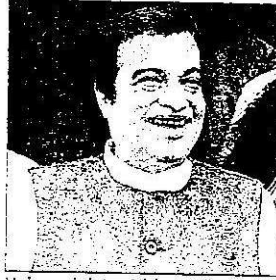
Govt got ₹65cr by giving drivers' data to pvt firms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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New Delhi: The government earned Rs 65 crore by providing restricted access to the database of registered vehicles and drivers to private players, the transport ministry has told Rajya Sabha.

"The government has provided access to 32 government entities and 87 private entities," Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Upper House in a written reply. Currently, the central Vahan database has approximately 25 crore vehicle registration records and Sarathi database has nearly 15 crore driving licence records.

Officials said the private entities were provided Vahan data and no private information of the owners were ever shared. "They got vehicle details including the make, model, colour, number of seats, chassis number, fuel type and names of financiers and insurance company. There was hardly any demand for Sarathi data. This has been the trend since in most of the cases insurance firms, automobile companies and those with keen interest in the sector sought the data," said an official.



Union minister Nitin Gadkari

While earlier a private entity could get the bulk data paying Rs 1 crore for a year, the "Bulk Data Sharing Policy and Procedure" which was launched this year has increased this amount to Rs 3 crore. Educational institutions can obtain it only for research purposes and for internal use by paying Rs 5 lakh.

The ministry has laid down the norms for different categories of entities who are allowed to get bulk data by paying the prescribed amount. For example, state transport departments and police authorities can have "unrestricted" access to database free of cost.

Insurance companies having valid IRDA licence and scheduled commercial banks can get data with details including the name of

owner, address, registration number, fitness and permit type. They can also get name, address of drivers and details such as the licence issuing authority and validity period. Such entities need to pay Rs 50 per record.

The norms laid down for transporters, state transport undertaking and individual employers specifies that they can get details of driving licence number, class of vehicle, issuing authority and validity. They need to pay Rs 100 per record.

Similarly, automobile manufacturers and their associations can get details of registering authority, engine number, chassis number, make model and manufacturer's name. They need to pay Rs 100 per record.

The guidelines also specify that the obtained data has to be processed/ stored in servers/ data centre residing in India and shall not be transferred, processed or stored in a server outside India. It says data provided by the ministry cannot be transferred or resold.

As of now only one application has been received from a commercial player during this financial year.