

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:627
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
POLICY ON REMOTE SENSING DATA
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American Space Imaging Company managed to take pictures of nuclear and defence establishments in Andhra Pradesh and passed on to Pentagon; and

(b) if so, the details of policy regarding regulatory remote sensing data in the country to protect national interests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The American Space Imaging Company's IKONOS satellite has been imaging various parts of the world since its launch in late 1999. Being a commercial venture, many users have been procuring the data from Space Imaging under the UN open sky policy. Federation of American Scientists (FAS), in its website, has displayed satellite imagery of various establishments including nuclear and defence establishments in different parts of the world, including some of the Indian sites in Andhra Pradesh, as obtained from IKONOS.

(b) The Government of India has formulated a policy of regulating the procurement, archival and dissemination of high-resolution satellite data within the country, after appropriately taking care of the sensitivity aspects. According to this policy, Department of Space has been identified as the nodal agency for the procurement and supply of high resolution satellite data. Supply of the data to the users is regulated by the National Remote Sensing Agency under the Department of Space after appropriately, taking care of the sensitivity of the data as per the Government of India guidelines.