

Data law panel report by year end: Prasad

The Centre expects the expert committee working on a framework for data protection to submit its report by the end of this year. This could lend greater clarity on data privacy requirements that could be imposed on companies like Google and Facebook.

“We expect the committee, led by former Supreme Court judge Justice B.N. Srikrishna, to submit its report by the end of this year,” IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

Asked about protection of user data with firms such as Google and Facebook, Mr. Prasad said while he appreciated how these firms were helping in empowering citizens, “they will need to respect and follow the law of the land.” A top government official said the panel’s report would clear the air on laws that would apply to such firms.

“The committee has already met twice,” the official, who did not wish to be named, said. “Whether there is a need for a separate law or introducing regulations under the IT Act... the government is open to both options, but that will totally depend on the nature of the recommendations.”

The Centre had formed a 10-member panel to identify “key data protection issues” and propose a framework for a data protection law.

END

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