GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2680
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/3/2018

R&D IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2680.   SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the steps taken by Government in the field of artificial intelligence, research and development and its likely advantages and disadvantages;

(b)   the current levels of financial and institutional support provided by Government for research in artificial intelligence;

(c)   whether Government has any plans to encourage research in artificial intelligence in the country; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)   Sir, Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) is a new initiative launched in 2016 to promote and foster the upcoming and futuristic technologies. Artificial Intelligence is one of the major components of CPS. The Union Government has taken the following steps:

(i)   To promote R&D in artificial intelligence, expert driven research projects across the country have been initiated;
(ii) For technology development and applications in artificial intelligence, a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary cluster based network programmes have been evolved and supported.

Advantages:

(i)   Development of new algorithms, technologies and applications through expert driven research;
(ii) Domain specific solution and technology development through cluster based methodology.

Disadvantages

(i)   As of now, no disadvantages have come up.
(ii) Around Rs.20 crores financial support has been provided by the Government during the current financial year 2017-18 to support R&D in Cyber Physical Systems including Artificial Intelligence

(c)   Yes, Sir. Artificial Intelligence is one of the core components of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems. As part of the Mission, The Government is encouraging research in Artificial Intelligence in the country by way of technology development, setting up of Centre of Excellences, Human Resource Development and Skill Enhancement, Entrepreneur Start-ups, Eco-system Development and International Collaborative Research.

(d)   Yes, Sir. The Artificial Intelligence technology will be used in sectors such as Medical, Heavy Industry, Financial, Banking, Education, Social Media and Agriculture.

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