

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2809
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.03.2023

BHASHINI CHATBOT

2809. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress and present status of the Bhashini Project or the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) launched in 2022;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the WhatsApp-based chatbot being built for this project will rely on information generated by ChatGPT to provide answers to queries raised by users, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) in view of the serious credibility concerns associated with Chat GPT, in what manner does Government intend to ensure the credibility and informational integrity of the chatbots being created under this mission?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): The National Language Technology Mission (BHASHINI), has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in July' 2022 to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven language technology solutions through Bhashini platform (<https://bhashini.gov.in>) as 3 year mission for all 22 Scheduled Indian Languages.

Currently, 350+ pre-trained AI-driven language models have been made available on Bhashini platform in 10 Indian Scheduled Languages (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu) and English. The Bhashini open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been listed on API Setu (<https://apisetu.gov.in>).

(b) to (c) Bhashini APIs are available for anyone to integrate with any application. The industry or startups may build applications leveraging any interface including WhatsApp to provide easy to use services to the citizens.

Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT have shown promise as a tool to provide information to users in a convenient and easy to understand manner. At the same time Mission Bhashini is aware of the reliability issues of LLMs if they are used without appropriate safeguards. Large Language Models (LLMs) may be used for providing voice bots in the citizen's local languages but the same will be deployed only after due diligence.
