

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1851
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.08.2023

USAGE OF AI AND ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES

1851: SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to regulate the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and allied technologies by Government;
- (b) the steps Government has taken in order to encourage the usage of AI and its tools to bring in efficiency in governance;
- (c) the manner in which Government envisages to keep the usage of AI and allied technologies safe for the citizens; and
- (d) whether there is a proposal to bring a law to regulate AI and allied technologies?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (d): Government has received various suggestions about regulating user harms caused by Artificial Intelligence and allied technologies. However, Government has already established a framework through the IT Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules to protect the Digital Nagrik from user harms as part of our Government's policy goals of ensuring that the Internet is always safe and will be trusted and accountable for Digital Nagrik.

(b): To develop a robust, safe and trusted AI innovation ecosystem in the country, Government is taking all necessary steps in policies and infrastructure.

The following are the details:

- i. Government has published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018 and proposes to develop an ecosystem for the research and adoption of Artificial Intelligence i.e. #AI for ALL.
- ii. MeitY has undertaken implementation of India AI which is a comprehensive programme for leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation and adoption for social impact as well as to make India a global leader in the AI space and ensure responsible and transformational use of AI for All. MeitY has also constituted seven working groups to evaluate all aspects of AI ecosystem.
- iii. MeitY has established Centres of Excellence in various emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence to explore opportunities in these specialized fields. These centres provide start-ups with premium plug-and-play co-working spaces and access to the ecosystem.
- iv. MeitY has launched the "National AI Portal" (<https://indiaai.gov.in/>) which serves as a comprehensive repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives in the country. The portal acts as a single point of reference for individuals, researchers, and industry professionals seeking information about AI initiatives in India, including academic research, startups, policy initiatives, and other related information.
- v. India is a founding member of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), having joined the multi-stakeholder initiative on June 15, 2020. India has won more

than two-thirds of first preference votes and has been entrusted with the responsibility of incoming council chair of theGPAI in November 2022.GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.

- vi. **Research:** Department of Science & Technology is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to promote R&D, Human Resource Development (HRD), Technology Development, Entrepreneurship Development, International Collaboration etc. As part of this Mission 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) in advanced technologies have been established in reputed institutes across the country. The TIHs at IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad and IIT BHU are working towards Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.
- vii. **Expertise & Skilling:**
 - a) MeitY has initiated ‘FutureSkills PRIME’ a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies. These include AI, Blockchain, Robotics, Big Data & Analytics, IoT, Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing, 3D Printing and Web 3.0.
 - b) Government has initiated ‘Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme’ with the objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI and Emerging Technologies.
 - c) Government has launched Responsible AI for Youth 2022, on July 30, 2022. The Programme was designed to reach out to students from Government schools on pan India basis and provide them with an opportunity to become part of the skilled workforce in an inclusive manner. The programme impacted 52,628 students across 35 States and UTs, empowering youth with necessary AI skillsets, who had limited or no access to the latest technologies and resources.
 - d) National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has launched ‘YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI’- A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme will provide a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aur Nyaay.
- viii. **Infrastructure:**
 - a) MeitY along with CDAC has also initiated a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) project on AIRAWAT (AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform) for providing a common compute platform for AI research and knowledge assimilation. This AI Computing infrastructure will be used by all Technology innovation hubs, Research Labs, Scientific Communities, Industry, and Start-Ups institutions with National Knowledge Network. The PoC for AIRAWAT is developed with 200 petaflops Mix Precision AI Machine which will be scalable to a peak compute of One AI Exaflop.
 - b) NIC has setup a Centre of Excellence in AI which is involved in facilitating AI as a Service through on Meghraj cloud with 7 AI PFlopssupercompute facility created at Delhi and 5 AI PFlop in Kolkata.
- ix. **Data Management:**
 - a) Data is the key input for any AI based system. Considering this, Government has developed an Open Government data Platform (OGD). Currently, over 5,80,000 data resources in 4,797 catalogs of various central &state departmentsare available on OGD platform.
 - b) MeitY has completed the public consultation of Draft National Data Governance Policy. This policy seeks to enhance access, quality, and use of data in line with emerging technology needs. The policy aims to ensure that non-personal and anonymized datasets from both Government and Private entities are safely accessible by start-ups and academia to unleash innovation and research. It provides an institutional framework for governing data access and use,

streamlining inter-government data access, ensuring compliance with data quality & metadata standards, and formulating anonymization guidelines.

(c): The concerns and risks associated with AI have been highlighted in the National Strategy for AI (NSAI) released in June, 2018. Various central and state government departments and agencies have commenced efforts to standardize responsible AI development, use and promote the adoption of best practices. Additionally, NITI Aayog has published a series of papers on the subject of Responsible AI for All. Further, as a founding member and council chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), India assumes a leading role in guiding the responsible development and use of AI.
