GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP FOR MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS

83.   SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:

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

(a) whether Government has partnered with Google, as mentioned in Google's response toNITI Aayog's "Toward Responsible #AIforAll - Working Document," to develop machinelearning applications aimed at addressing important societal challenges in India, includingflood forecasting and diabetic retinopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcomes and achievements observed so far from the implementation of thesemachine learning applications in addressing the identified challenges;

(d) whether Government has formulated any plans or strategies to scale up thecollaboration with other technology companies or organisations; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)and (b): Our Ministry understands that in May 2018, Google and NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent to enhance India's artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) ecosystem. This intent was toinclude training programs for government officials in AI tools, offering research grants and scholarships, conducting study groups and developer courses on AI/ML, supporting Indian AI/ML startups through incubation and mentorship, and organizing hackathons to address sectoral challenges using AI/ML.

Subsequently, NITI Aayog released a working document titled "Responsible #AIforAll" for public consultation. The document outlined principles and recommendations for responsible AI development and adoption in India and provided guidelines across areas like transparency, privacy, accountability, and inclusivity.In response to NITI Aayog's paper, Google emphasized its commitment to responsible AI development, highlighting its own AI principles and initiatives.

(c):   Google informed NITI Aayog regarding Working document towards Responsible #AIforALL, that it has developed machine learning applications to tackle significant societal challenges in India, including flood forecasting and diabetic retinopathy. In this regard, Google's flood forecasting initiative was first piloted in the Patna region of Bihar in 2018, and then was extended to the whole of India by 2020, covering 200 million people across more than 250,000 sq km. Subsequently, Google improved their notification infrastructure and expanded the products to inform affected individuals, by adding better crisis information on Google Maps.

(d)and(e): The Government considers the next decade as 'India Techade', a decade full of technology opportunities for young Indians.The Government recognizes the potential of emerging technologies and is actively working with the private sector to foster innovation and promote their utilization. To foster innovation and investment, Ministry hassigned Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various global Indian technology and research names. These agreements aim to enhance India's standing and talent in the emerging technology domain. Some examples of recent MoUs signed include:

- In October 2023, MoUswere signed between IBM India and three entities engaged with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to advance and accelerate innovation in AI, Semiconductor, and Quantum technology for India.
- In September 2023 , MoU was signed between Google India and Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) which outlines a strategic partnership to advance artificial intelligence (AI) technology and promote language inclusivity in India.
- In July 2023, India AI (an IBD under DIC) and Meta signed an MoU to establish a framework in AI & Emerging Technologies.
- In September 2022, MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) and Meta collaborated to accelerate XR technology startups in India.

The Government remains committed to building a vibrant technology ecosystem through such strategic partnerships with technology leaders. Going forward, more such collaborations are expected to nurture talent, drive innovation and support the rise of new-age technologies in India.

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