IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE OF AI TO YOUTH

1333.   SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the future workforce is equipped with the knowledge in the area of Artificial Intelligence that is imperative for the growth of the country;

(b)   the details of the funds allocated, released and utilized under various schemes for promoting Artificial Intelligence during the last three years, year-wise, State/UT-wise; and

(c)   the steps taken by Government to impart the knowledge of Artificial Intelligence to the youth of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c):India was ranked No.2 in AI Skills penetration as per Stanford AI Index. The various initiatives taken by the Government to expand AI ecosystem and connect AI opportunities to the youth of the country are as under:

I.   **IndiaAI Mission:** The Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI Mission at a total outlay of Rs. 10,371.92 Crores as 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 Al space and ensure responsible and transformational use of Al for All. The India AI mission seeks to foster responsible and inclusive growth within India's AI landscape by democratizing access to computing resources, enhancing data quality, nurturing homegrown AI expertise, attracting top talent, fostering industry partnerships, supporting startup ventures, promoting socially impactful AI projects, and emphasizing ethical practices in AI.

II.   **BHASHINI**: MeitY has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 with an outlay of Rs 495.51 crore for three-year duration. The aim is to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 scheduled Indian languages in open source to help transcend language barriers in the digital medium. A national public digital platform http://bhashini.gov.in has been developed to proliferate language technology solutions.

III.   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. The 200 AI Petaflops AIRAWAT PoC integrated with 210 AI Petaflops of PARAM SiddhiAI has been ranked 75th in Top500 List.

IV.   National Informatics Centre (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.

V.   MeitY has initiated **'FutureSkills PRIME'** a programme for re-skilling and up-skilling of IT Manpower for employability in new/emerging technologies. Under the FutureSkills Prime program, there are 119 courses specifically focused on the cutting-edge fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In which, so far 1.27 Lakh+ individuals have been trained in various AI-related courses. Also, 1236 Government Officials and 292 Trainers have been trained in AI under the said programme.

VI. Government has initiated the **'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.

VII. Government has launched **Responsible AI for Youth 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 52000+ students across 35 States and UTs, empowering youth with necessary AI skill sets, who had limited or no access to the latest technologies and resources, and2,536 teachers from 2,252 schools were oriented on the basic knowledge of AI. 11,000+ students completed the first level of AI training and the top 125 students were chosen for phase-2, during which they received deep-dive AI training and mentorship.

VIII. 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 an objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme provides 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.Around 10,000students from 32states and UTs participated. A total of **1200+** students were oriented on the basics of AI and the top 200 students were shortlisted for phase 2. In Phase 3, Top 50 students were invited to a Rapid Modelling hands-on AI workshop in Ahmedabad. Top 10 Most innovative AI-based projects were selected and awarded as winners.

IX. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has been implementing its flagship scheme **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** since 2015 to impart skill development training through Short-Term Training (STT) and up-skilling and re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). **PMKVY 4.0** has been designed as a Demand-Driven scheme to skill the candidates as per regional demand of skilled workforce in the industry and market. Further, the scheme also focuses on new age and emerging courses such as Drone, Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc. Under PMKVY, since 2015 total 2,914 candidates have been trained in AI related job roles.

The initiatives taken by the Government to expandthe AI ecosystem are for the entire country. The initiatives are implemented by the Central Ministries/Departments through their implementing agencies. The details of funds allocated and released under the initiatives are annexed as Annexure I.

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Details of funds allocated:

Name of Programme /Scheme	Funds Allocated
Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme	Phase-I: Rs. 466 Cr
	Phase-II: Rs. 481.93 Cr.
AI & ML Technology Innovation Hub for Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (AI4ICPS) Foundation, IIT Kharagpur by Department of Science & Technology	Rs. 119 Cr.

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