GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2234
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.08.2024

ADOPTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2234. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

(a) the data on adoption rate of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in various sectors, year-wise;
(b) the initiatives taken by Government to promote adoption of AI across industries, the details thereof;
(c) the budget allocated and spent on AI research and development in the current fiscal year; and
(d) the challenges faced in AI adoption and the measures taken to overcome them??

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): India is ranked 40th as per the Oxford AI readiness index. In the Stanford AI Index report 2024, India is ranked 1stfor AI Skill Penetration and 1stin the Number of GitHub AI Projects.

According to the NASSCOM AI Adoption Index report, India scores 2.45 out of 4, indicating an Enthusiast level of AI adoption. This score highlights the significant potential value of AI, representing a $500 billion opportunity by FY2026.

The sectors leading in AI adoption are Industrial & Automotive, Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) and Retail, Banking Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI), and Healthcare, which are projected to contribute approximately 60% of AI's potential value-add.

Also, Government's mission is to harness the potential of AI for real life use cases in healthcare, agriculture, language translation, etc. to make AI beneficial to citizens and communities. Some of the use cases where AI is being adopted in the Government Schemes/Programs are as under:

i. Digital India Bhashini:In order to provide the access of content and services to the citizens of India 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. Currently, 350+ pre-trained AI-driven language models have been made available on Bhashini platform in 10 Indian Scheduled Languages.
ii. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has implemented AI enabled KISAN E-Mitra bot in 11 Indian languages to facilitate farmers and other users to know details on PM-KISAN.
iii. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industry are making use of Artificial Intelligence for fraud detection in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) respectively.
iv. Ministry of Law and Justice is making use of AI enabled SUVAS (Supreme Court VidhikAnuvaad Software), which is assisting in the translation of judgments into regional languages.
v. Parliament of India is also keeping pace with the AI revolution. Digital Sansad App, powered by AI, is streamlining legislative processes, enhancing transparency, and improving citizen engagement. This innovative platform ensures accurate transcription of parliamentary proceedings, setting a precedent for efficient governance. Additionally, softwares for automatic balloting and audio-visual resources have further modernized our parliamentary operations.

vi. Railways has compiled number of use cases concerning Passenger Business, Freight, Track Infrastructure, Signaling, Overhead Equipment, Locomotive, Carriage & Wagon, Material Management, Finance, Human Resource Management & Security where Artificial Intelligence can be used forimproving railway services.

vii. The Department of Rural Development uses AI/ML in schemes like AwaasSoft for PMAY-G, the Area Officer app for worksite inspections, PMGSY for flagging suspicious maintenance payments, DDU-GKY for detecting irregularities in placement documents, and MGNREGA for asset construction detection from photographs.

To promote the adoption of AI and to develop a robust, safe and trusted AI innovation ecosystem in the country, the Government has undertaken several initiatives. 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 IndiaAI Mission 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 Al space and ensure responsible and transformational use of Al for All. MeitY also constituted seven working groups to evaluate all aspects of Al ecosystem and published the 1st edition of the working group committee report.

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 the GPAI 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. MeitY has initiated 'Future Skills 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.

vii. 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.

viii. 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 Government has earmarked Rs 21,936.90 crore for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) fiscal year 2024-25 in Union Budget 2024-25. A substantial portion of this budget is directed towards the IndiaAI mission. The Union Government, in its budget has allocated Rs 551.75 crore to the IndiaAI Mission, emphasizing its commitment to advancing artificial intelligence research and applications. Moreover, for the establishment of 3 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) which was announced in budget 2023-24 has been allocated Rs.255 Cr in FY 2024-25.

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