CHALLENGES POSED BY AI

1335. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government has identified key challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), including ethical concerns, privacy issues, and job displacement; if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any steps have been taken to mitigate risks associated with AI deployment in critical sectors;
(c) whether Government is considering to constitute a task force for assessing the impact of AI across different sectors and industries; and
(d) the measures being undertaken to build AI awareness and skills to address emerging challenges effectively; if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):   The Government of India emphasizes the concept of 'AI for All,' aligning with the Prime Minister's vision to foster and promote the use of cutting-edge technologies across the country. This initiative aims to ensure that AI benefits all sectors of society, driving innovation and growth.

The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an open, safe, trusted and accountable internet for users in the country amidst AI growth.

The Government is committed to harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the good of our people in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education, Governance, DPI and others. At the same time, the Government is cognizant of the risks posed by AI. Hallucination, bias, misinformation and deepfakes are some of the challenges posed by AI.

Government is cognizant of the need to create guardrails to ensure that AI is safe and trusted. Accordingly, the Government after extensive public consultations with relevant stakeholders has notified the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021")** on 25.02.2021 which was subsequently amended 28.10.2022 and 6.4.2023. The IT Rules, 2021 cast specific legal obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries and platforms, to ensure their accountability towards safe and trusted internet including their expeditious action towards removal of the prohibited misinformation, patently false information and deepfakes. In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the legal obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, they lose their **safe harbour protection under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act")** and shall be liable for consequential action or prosecution as provided under any extant law.

Also the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** has been enacted on 11th August, 2023 which casts obligations on Data Fiduciaries to safeguard digital personal data, holding them accountable, while also ensuring the rights and duties of Data Principals.

Government has constituted an Advisory Group on AI for India-specific regulatory AI framework under the chairmanship of PSA to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with diverse stakeholders from academia, Industry and government with an objective to address all issues related to development of Responsible AI framework for safe and trusted development and deployment of AI.

The advent of Artificial Intelligence is not leading to any job losses instead it is being used as a tool for augmenting capability. AI may result in automating some routine jobs but will also result in job creation in various data science, data curation etc. This will require reskilling and upskilling, for which MeitY has initiated 'FutureSkills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

One of the key pilar of IndiaAI Mission is **IndiaAI Future Skills** which envisions to augment the number of graduate and post-graduate in AI domain by awarding IndiaAI fellowship to B.Tech and M.Tech students of all the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recognized engineering institutions. Further, top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranked research institutes are being supported with IndiaAI PhD fellowship for undertaking research in the field of AI and related subjects.

The Government, through various initiatives, is undertaking several measures to build AI awareness and skills to effectively address emerging challenges. Government has organized the RAISE 2020 to bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and academicians to discuss and explore ways to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social empowerment.

India as a founding member and current council chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) has organized the Global IndiaAI Summit and GPAI Summit in July 2024 and December 2023 where various stakeholders from government, industry and academia engaged in discussions and deliberations for development of AI based solutions in a safe and trusted manner. The summits served as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences on the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies and build awareness about the challenges posed by AI. India has taken lead in ensuring that AI is available for all and for developing global framework for safety & trust for AI models and applications.

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. The IndiaAI portal hosts a wide array of articles, publications, and thought leadership pieces that aim to enhance the understanding of AI and its potential applications. In addition to articles, the IndiaAI portal hosts webinars and online sessions to build awareness and skills and cover a broad spectrum of topics related to AI, including ethical issues, technological advancements etc.

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