GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1349

TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.12.2024

FORMULATION OF LAW TO REGULATE AI AND GENERATIVE AI

1349. MS. DOLA SEN:

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

- whether Government has formulated any law aiming to formulate ethics regarding the (a) usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) or generative AI like ChatGPT;
- if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; (b)
- whether Government is planning to introduce similar legislations like EU's Harmonized rules (c) on AI (ACI Act 2023), aiming to address socio-economic benefits and potential risks of AI; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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 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.

To address the challenges and risks of AI the Government is cognizant of the need to create guardrails to ensure that AI is safe and trusted. Accordingly, the Central 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.

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 Principal Scientific Advisor (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.
