GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2582
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2024

Three Centres of Excellence in AI

2582 Shri S Niranjan Reddy:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is establishing three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in New Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and the criteria for selecting these States;

(b)   whether these CoEs will develop specialized courses, certifications or degree programs in collaboration with industries to enhance AI skills in agriculture, healthcare and urban sustainability; and

(c)   whether research outputs from these CoEs will integrate with Government schemes in these sectors, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): In pursuance to Para 60 of the Budget Announcement 2023-24 regarding "Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence" for the vision of "Make AI in India and make AI work for India", Government has approved establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial intelligence (AI), one each in the areas of health, sustainable cities and agriculture with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.

For selection of CoEs, a nation-wide call for proposals was rolled out inviting proposals from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) having NIRF ranking within the top 100 in the overall category. In phase-I, proposals from 11 consortiums were selected for submission of Proof of Concept (PoC). Thereafter, consortiums led by AIIMS Delhi -IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Ropar were selected in the areas of health, sustainable cities and agriculture respectively, through rigorous evaluation by an Apex Committee (which consists of industry experts, experts in the field of AI, academicians, representatives from concerned Ministries etc).

Each CoE is a consortium of top academic, research institutes along with industry partners, startups etc and represents a collaborative effort between lead institute and other institutions like IIT Madras, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay, IIT Tirupati, IIT Guwahati, IIT Gandhinagar, IISc Bangalore, IIIT Hyderabad, AIIMS Patna, NIT Meghalaya, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Calicut etc.

These CoEs are designed to conduct interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications, and create scalable solutions in these three areas. This initiative aims to galvanize an effective AI ecosystem and nurture quality human resources in these critical fields. The research and technology development outputs from these consortiums are also envisaged to integrate seamlessly with government schemes across these sectors, ensuring that cutting-edge innovations that translate into actionable solutions for public benefit.

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