GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 536
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.11.2024

USE OF APPLICATIONS AND AI TOOLS FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES

536.   SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a)   whether Government is aware that various foreign applications and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like WhatsApp, Telegram, Google docs, Slack, Todoist, ChatGPT, etc. are being used by officials of Central Government and other organizations for official works and sharing sensitive and secret data/ files;

(b)   if so, the orders of Government which allowed their use for official purposes;

(c)   whether transmission/sharing of sensitive/confidential files/data by officials of Central Government is safe;

(d)   whether any orders have been issued allowing these Apps and tools for official use; and

(e)   if not, in what manner Government is going to check it and fix responsibility?

ANSWER

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

(a)   to (e):   Under the Digital India Program, Government of India has been implementing several digital transformation projects for enabling access to affordable public services which has resulted in efficiency and transparency in governance. Government of India has also implemented solutions like eOffice and NIC email which ensures safe and secure communications within the Government. Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has issued the Manual of Office Procedure which lays down the procedures for functioning in Government including use of various tools for communications. It also lays down the process for handling of sensitive, classified and confidential files and information within the Government. As far as the use of AI based applications is concerned, Government has approved the IndiaAI Mission which focuses on building an eco-system for development and deployment of safe, trustworthy and responsible AI solutions. Under the safe and trusted pillar of IndiaAI Mission, development of indigenous tools and frameworks have been taken up. Protecting confidential data is vital to maintain trust, privacy and security through responsible usage of AI for official purposes.

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