STATUS OF NATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN FRAMEWORK

871. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

(a) the status of the National Blockchain Framework launched to provide Blockchain-as-a- Service for Government organisations as part of the digital ecosystem;
(b) the key Government departments currently utilising the framework for e-governance applications;
(c) whether interoperability with other digital platforms has been established; and
(d) the steps taken to encourage uptake of blockchain technology in public service delivery?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): National Blockchain Framework (NBF)- Vishvasya has been launched on 4th Sep, 2024 to offer Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS) by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The NBF is fully operational with geographically distributed infrastructure. Its supports distributed infrastructure, smart contracts, security, privacy, interoperability and development & deployment of permissioned blockchain based applications.

Blockchain applications may be developed using NBF for Government Services which need secure and verifiable records of transactions. Using the framework, several blockchain applications are designed, developed and deployed in collaboration with various government departments.

MeitY and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have conducted several workshops & seminars from time to time to sensitize the benefits of Blockchain Technology for various stakeholders including the Government departments.

Some of the blockchain applications already hosted on NBF include:

   (i)   eStamps in collaboration with Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) for Maharashtra Government
   (ii)   Praamaanik - Blockchain technology to verify mobile app authenticity (14 citizen centric apps onboarded) for Govt of Madhya Pradesh

(iii)   Blockchain-based service level training record solution for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)

(iv)   Inspection System for Child Care Institutions for Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), Govt. of Karnataka

(v)   Blockchain enabled Consent Framework - Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) for Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

NBF is enabled with APIs for utilizing the services of other public digital platforms such as e-Pramaan and e-Sign making it interoperable. Applications developed using NBF BaaS, can utilize e-Pramaan for user authentication and e-Sign for digital signing for authenticity of the digital documents and enabling the interoperability with other digital platforms.

For promotion of Blockchain, government released the National Blockchain Strategy document outlining short- and long-term goals for blockchain adoption across public sectors, including interoperability standards, governance models, and national reference architectures.

A Centre of Excellence (CoE) has been established under NIC, MeitY that provides:

- Consultation and support for pilot blockchain project
- Infrastructure, training and research assistance
- Collaboration with global platforms and standards bodies

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