

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 706
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.07.2026

AI DATA CENTRES AND WATER USAGE

706. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether Government has prescribed water-use norms for Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres;
- (b) whether any proposal has been received for AI data centres in water vulnerable districts; and
- (c) whether environmental and water security assessments are mandatory before approval of AI data centres?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): AI is driving rapid growth in compute infrastructure and data centres across the world. The Government is committed to supporting AI infrastructure while ensuring that it is developed in a sustainable and resource-efficient manner.

IndiaAI Mission is building a comprehensive AI ecosystem through seven pillars, including AI compute, foundation models, datasets, applications, skilling and safety.

India AI mission does not establish data centres. However, for meeting the demand of Artificial Intelligence workloads, IndiaAI Mission provides Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) access to startups, academia and researchers. The compute is provided by the 15 empanelled service providers/data centres under the AI compute capacity framework.

The data centres are seeing continuous innovation in the way they are developed and operated. New approaches are improving cooling systems, enhancing water efficiency and reducing overall energy consumption.

Water Conservation & Cooling Technologies

The data centres in India are spread across the country and for regulation & control ground water extraction, guidelines have been issued by Ministry of Jal Shakti vide notification no.S.O. 3289(E) dated 24.09.2020 & amendment notification dated 29.03.2023.

The industry is increasingly adopting advanced cooling technologies such as direct-to-chip liquid cooling, adiabatic cooling and immersion cooling.

With the evolution of AI infrastructure, cooling technologies are also moving towards closed-loop liquid cooling systems. This has significantly reduced water consumption, improve energy efficiency and enable higher-density AI computing.

Industry is also deploying high density racks to efficiently support high-performance computing & AI workloads for further reduction of power and water consumption.

Together, these technologies are significantly improving water use efficiency (WUE) by lowering the water requirement across data centre operations.

Environmental Clearances

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The Environmental Impact Assessment process is administered through the PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub) portal, which serves as the unified digital platform for submission, processing and monitoring of environmental clearances and related approvals.
