GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5437
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023

REAL-TIME TRANSLATION

5437. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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

(a)   whether the Government is working to create a 'Real-Time Translation' software to help overcome language barriers across regions of India using artificial intelligence;
(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far and the estimated year of completion for this project;
(c)   whether the Government has partnered with a private entity to carry out this project; and
(d)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): The National Language Technology Mission (BHASHINI), has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in July' 2022 to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven language technology solutions through Bhashini platform (https://bhashini.gov.in) as 3 year mission for all 22 Scheduled Indian Languages.

Under the Mission Digital India Bhashini, 11 R&D projects have been funded involving academic institutions like IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad, C-DAC etc and startups to develop various language technologies. Currently, 390+ pre-trained AI-driven language models have been made available on Bhashini platform in 10 Indian Scheduled Languages (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu) and English. The Bhashini Open Application Programming Interface (APIs) for language translation in text and voice have been listed on API Setu (https://apisetu.gov.in). Also, a beta version mobile app has been developed for speech to speech machine translation along with a web Application "Anuvaad". This is a sentence level Real-Time translation software which will help to overcome language barriers across regions of India for certain languages.

(c) and (d): Ministry of Electronics and IT through its implementation partner Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) under Digital India Corporation (DIC) has engaged EkStep Foundation as Knowledge Partner without any financial arrangement. Further, various private educational institutions, IIITs and startups have been engaged for R&D projects in consortium mode where consortium is headed by institutions like IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad, C-DAC etc.

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