GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5479
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.04.2023

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

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Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to review the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions to check for lapses or malpractices in various ministries and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government conducts predeployment assessment and whether these reports are available in public domain;
(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(d) the details of the guiding principles for implementing in the Ministry/Department while developing or deploying AI solutions;
(e) whether the Government intends to introduce a regulatory framework to give effect to the Responsible AI principles published by the NITI Aayog or principles of a similar nature and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) the measures taken to enhance capacities of young entrepreneurs and upskill youth in emerging areas such as AI, robotics, etc.?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): AI is considered asa kinetic enabler of the digital economy and innovation ecosystem. Government is harnessing the potential of AI to provide personalized and interactive citizen-centric services through Digital Public Platforms.National Program on Artificial Intelligence – IndiaAI is being implemented with the objective to establish a comprehensive program for leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation, and adoption for social impact. Itencompasses four broad pillars of the AI ecosystem, including Skilling in AI, Responsible AI, Data Management Office, and the National Centre on AI (NCAI).Various central and state government departments and agencies have commenced efforts to standardize responsible AI development, use and promote the adoption of best practices. National Informatics Centre (NIC) also conducts assessments as a prerequisite to evaluate the feasibility of AI model training and deployment. These assessments include a data readiness assessment that focuses on the quality and volume of data, data stratification, and data provenance. These reports are not publicly available.

(d) No Sir, there is no guiding principles set for the implementing Ministry/Department while developing or deploying AI solutions. However, the Ministry/Departments while developing/deploying an AI solution may have a clear understanding of the organization's objective and scope for AI deployment, aware of data readiness, visualizing data, anonymizing data, ensuring the context in which the AI model is developed and deployed, risk management framework, model validation and verification, and identifying potential retraining requirements for the AI model.

(e): Government is aware that the use of AI raises ethical concerns and risks. The series of papers published by NITI Aayog on the subject of Responsible AI for All highlights these concerns. Currently there is no regulation for Responsible AI.

(f): The government has taken various measures to enhance the capacities of young entrepreneurs and upskill youth in emerging areas such as AI, robotics, etc., such as:

- MeitY has initiated 'FutureSkills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies. These include AI, Blockchain, Robotic Process Automation, Big Data & Analytics, IoT, Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing, 3D Printing and Web 3.0.
- Government has initiated 'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme' with the objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI and Emerging Technologies.
- Government has launched Responsible AI for Youth 2022, on July 30, 2022. The Programme was designed to reach out to students from Government schools on pan India basis and provide them with an opportunity to become part of the skilled workforce in an inclusive manner. The programme impacted 52,628 students across 35 States and UTs, empowering youth with necessary AI skillsets, who had limited or no access to the latest technologies and resources.
- National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has launched 'YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI'- A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme will provide a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aurNyaay.
- To foster innovation through research, government has created several 'Centres of Excellence' onvarious Emerging Technologies including Artificial Intelligence. These centres connect variousentities such as startups, enterprises, venture capitalists, government and academia to look intoproblem statements and develop innovative solutions.
- Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). Under the Mission, 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) are set up in premier institutes of national importance across the country in advanced technologies. Two of these Hubs are working towards enhancing capacities of young entrepreneurs and upskilling youth in emerging areas such as AI, robotics, etcwhich are AI4ICPS Foundation in technology vertical "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" set up at IIT Kharagpur and I-Hub for Robotics and Autonomous Systems Innovation Foundation in technology vertical "Robotics & Autonomous Systems" set up at IISc Bangalore.

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