

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1644**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 13.12.2023

**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN AI**

**1644.SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Centre of Excellence (COE) regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) have been selected in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government intends to regulate the AI sector and their some activities regarding spreading misinformation and biasness, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government intends to deploy AI related systems to identify and minimize cyber crime, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government intends to select an institute as the COE in AI in West Bengal; If so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and(d):The Budget Announcement 2023-24 regarding "Centres of Excellence in areas of Agriculture, Health and Sustainable Cities" states as under-

"For realizing the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India", three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence will be set up in top educational institutions. Leading industry players will partner in conducting interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications and scalable problem solutions in the areas of agriculture, health, and sustainable cities. This will galvanize an effective AI ecosystem and nurture quality human resources in the field."

In pursuance of the same, the **Department of Higher Education (DHE)** has approved the setting up of 3 Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence with a total financial outlay of Rs.990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.The Call for Proposals under this initiative has been launched on 18-11-2023 through the online portal (<https://iitjammu.ac.in/aicpmu>), for selection through the challenge method."

(b) and (c): Government of India is committed to ensure that, AI, while deployed is safe & trusted for all users. The Government has already established a framework for regulating user harms through the IT Act in May, 2021 and advanced it with amended IT rules in October 2022 and April 2023.The Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act") and rules made thereunder contain several provisions for safeguarding users from digital crimes and online harms emanating through any technology including artificial intelligence (AI). The IT Act penalizes various offences relating to computer resources, including tampering with computer source documents (section 65), dishonestly or fraudulently damaging computer system (section 66), identity theft (section 66C), cheating by impersonation (section 66D), etc.In addition to such general provisions regarding cyber offences, it also provides for various offences that serve to secure the digital space for women, e.g., violation of bodily privacy (section 66E), transmitting of obscene material (section 67), and publishing or transmission of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form (section 67A and 67B). Further, the IT Rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries vis-à-vis what kind of information is to

be hosted, displayed, uploaded, published, transmitted, stored or shared. Intermediaries are also required to remove any content violative of any law for the time being in force as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its authorised agency. In case of failure to follow diligence as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, by intermediaries, they shall lose their exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act and shall be liable for consequential action as provided in such law.

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