WEB3 SECTOR

463. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

(a) whether the Government supports startups that are innovating in the Web3 sector in the form of any incubation or mentorship;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to upscale and train relevant officials in various departments on emerging technologies such as Web3;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has collaborated with stakeholders, including the industry, to build awareness and understanding about the potential of Web3 technologies in India: and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b):Yes, Madam. Web3 represents the future of internet and the Government is committed to ensuring that the innovators and innovation from India create the future of Web3 and internet. Blockchain being an important element of Web3, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is supporting startups through the following initiatives:

A CoE in Blockchain Technology has been setup in collaboration with MeitY, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Govt. of Haryana, Padup Venture Private Limited, IBM, Intel, Global Blockchain Association (GBA) and Foundation of Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) in March 2020. This is an initiative to identify and evaluate promising start-ups in the field of Blockchain technology. The CoE is a domain-specific specialized incubation facility for start-ups in the area of emerging technologies where infrastructure, technology, leadership, mentoring, training and networking are made available.

Besides this, MeitY supports startups that are innovating in the emerging technologies in the form of incubation or mentorship. Details are given at Annexure-1.

(c) and (d): MeitY has initiated a programme titled "FutureSkills PRIME" (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability) aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling of IT professionals in 10 new/emerging technologies namely Blockchain (which is an important technology for Web3), Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile and Cyber Security.

Under the FutureSkills PRIME programme, there are 9 courses available on Blockchain technology with 1,999 enrollments and 301 have been completed the course. Also under the blended learning programme, C-DAC/NIELIT resource centres have trained 1,013 Government Officials and 143 Trainers in Blockchain technology.

(e) and (f): There is no such proposal.

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Annexure

- **TIDE 2.0 Scheme:** Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) Scheme was initiated in the year 2019 to promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc. The Scheme is being implemented through 51 incubators through a three tiered structure with an overarching objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organisations.
- **SAMRIDH Scheme:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the 'Start-up Accelerator Programme of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH)' in August 2021 with an aim to support existing and upcoming Accelerators to further select and accelerate potential software product based start-ups to scale.
- **Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS):** NGIS has been approved to support software product ecosystem and to address a significant portion of National Policy on Software Product (NPSP) 2019.
- **Support for International Patent Protection in E&IT (SIP-EIT) Scheme:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) had initiated a scheme titled "Support for International Patent Protection in E&IT (SIP-EIT) that encourages international patent filing by Indian MSMEs and start-ups so as to encourage innovation and recognize the value and capabilities of global IP.

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