GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1803
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

1803:   **SHRI JAYANT SINHA:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:
(a) the steps taken by the Government to boost the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector in the country;
(b) the objectives that the Global Partnership on AI seeks to achieve; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to empower the youth with AI skill- set?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a):   Sir, the following are the major steps taken by the Government to boost the AI sector in the country:
i.   Government has launched **'National AI Portal'** which is a repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives in the country for all stakeholders at a single place
ii.   Government has initiated **'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme'** with an objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI in the country. Presently, 908 Full time & 308 part-time PhD candidates are enrolled under the scheme at 97 academic institutions across the country.
iii.   Government has initiated **'FutureSkills PRIME** (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)'** which aims to create a re-skilling/up-skilling ecosystem in emerging and futuristic technologies including AI.
iv.   To promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies, Government is implementing **TIDE 2.0** (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs). The Scheme is being implemented through various incubators with an overarching objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organizations
v.   To foster innovation through research in Technology, government has created several **'Centres of Excellence'** on various emerging Technologies including Artificial Intelligence. The centres connect various entities such as startups, enterprises, venture capitalists, government and academia to look into problem statements and develop innovative solutions.
vi.   Government has developed API (Application Programming Interface) platform called **National Data Highway (NDH)** in March 2020 to enable quick and transparent integration with other e-Governance applications and systems thereby providing access to data and services and promoting citizen participation for the benefit of the community.

(b):   GPAI (Global Partnership on AI) has been created as a voluntary effort that will bring together countries and AI experts from all relevant disciplines and stakeholder groups including science, industry, civil society, international organizations and government, to support AI that is grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth, and societal benefit, while seeking to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

(c):   The major steps taken by the Government to empower the youth with AI skill set are as follows:
i.   National Programme on Responsible Use of AI for Youth: With the objective to empower the youth to become AI ready and help reduce the skill gap, government along with Industry partner has started this initiative to promote

AI awareness among Government school going children. Presently 50,501 students have registered, and 11,430 students have completed their first level of AI training.

ii. Future Skills: Government along with industry partner has started Future Skill programme to reskill the workforce especially from IT/ITeS sector to train on emerging technologies. This is to build capabilities in AI and allied areas.

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