DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND AI

2678. DR. AMAR SINGH:
      SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MEENA:

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

(a) whether the Government has defined 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI) and 'digital public goods', if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the government is aware of the DPI projects launched/initiated/recognised as Digital Public Infrastructure(DPI) between January 2020 and July 2024, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether consultation with stakeholders and public was conducted before creating the platform, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the policy or regulation made by the Government covers the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by public authorities and/or law enforcement agencies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d):Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Digital Public Goods (DPG) are used interchangeably in general. They are the set of shared, secure and interoperable digital systems that can be built on open standards and specifications to deliver and provide equitable access to public and private services at population scale.The prominent DPIsare: Aadhaar, UPI (Unified Payment Interface), DigiLocker, UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), E-Sanjeevani, Aarogya Setu, GEM (Government e-Marketplace), e-Office, Poshan Tracker, and E-Courts etc.For capturing the stakeholders' requirements and to incorporate their suggestions and feedback, multiple stakeholder consultations have been organized. Further,these DPIs also have a feedback mechanism wherein feedback is collected and factored-in appropriately for improvement.

The initiatives taken by Government to promote research and development in AI are as follows:

(i)   IndiaAI Mission: The Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI Mission at a total outlay of Rs. 10,371.92 Crores as a comprehensive programme for leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation and adoption for social impact as well as to make India a global leader in the Al space and ensure responsible and transformational use of Al for all. The India AI mission seeks to foster responsible and inclusive growth within India's AI landscape by democratizing access to computing resources, enhancing data quality, nurturing homegrown AI expertise, attracting top talent, fostering industry partnerships, supporting startup ventures, promoting socially impactful AI projects, and emphasizing ethical practices in AI.

(ii) MeitY has launched Mission Digital India Bhashini in the year 2022 with an outlay of Rs 495.51 crore for three-year duration to develop core language technologies for speech and text translation for 22 scheduled Indian languages in open source to help transcend language barriers in the digital medium. A national public digital platform http://bhashini.gov.in has been developed to proliferate language technology solutions.

(iii) 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, Robotics, Big Data & Analytics, IoT, Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing, 3D Printing and Web 3.0.

(iv) 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.

(v) National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS): The Mission was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018 with a total outlay of Rs.3,660 Crores. With an aim for convergence with all stakeholders by establishing strong linkages between academia, industry, Government and International Organizations. The Mission is working with all the concerned Ministries/ Departments to identify their technology needs, develop solutions and technical support. The Mission aims at development of technology platforms to carry out R&D, Translational Research, Product Development, Incubating & Supporting Start-ups as well as Commercialization.

(vi) National Supercomputing Mission: The mission was launched in 2015, to foster a robust ecosystem in High-Performance Computing (HPC). Under NSM, more than 30 Peta-Flop (1015) capacity supercomputers have been deployed across academic institutions, R&D labs like IISc, IITs, etc. enabling over 8000 researches from 200 institutes to execute more than 94 lakh application codes. These supercomputers are pivotal in developing national-level applications in genomics, drug discovery, flood forecasting, disaster management, and seismic data processing. Capacity building efforts have trained over 20,000 individuals in HPC and AI. To become 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in HPC and AI, development of indigenous supercomputing sub-components i.e. Server Board, High Speed Interconnect, Complete Software Stack, Direct contact liquid Cooling (DCLC) cooling technology etc. have been undertaken through the mission.

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