GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 3089
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.03.2025

CONTINUOUS EMPANELMENT FOR GPU PROCUREMENT UNDER INDIA AI MISSION

3089. SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:

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

(a) the objectives of the continuous empanelment process for Graphic Processing Unit (GPU) procurement under the India AI Mission;
(b) the details of the partnerships established with academic institutions, startups and industry for AI model development;
(c) the expected increase in India's AI computing capacity as a result of this initiative; and
(d) whether there is a provision for revising GPU rates periodically and if so, the frequency of such revisions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):Union Cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved the **IndiaAI Mission on 7th March 2024**, a strategic initiative to establish a robust and inclusive AI ecosystem that aligns with the country's development goals.

IndiaAI Mission encompasses key pillars of the Al ecosystem including, IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing and Safe & Trusted AI.
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, the mission seeks to foster responsible and inclusive growth within India's AI landscape.

One of the key pillars of the IndiaAI Mission is **IndiaAI Compute**, which aims to deliver Compute as a Service to address India's dedicated AI computing needs across various sectors. The ecosystem comprises AI compute infrastructure of 10,000 or more GPUs.

Towards this, IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) published a Request for Empanelment (RFE) on August 16, 2024, to empanel AI services on cloud including GPUs. 19 bidders had submitted proposals to empanel their AI cloud services, out of which 10 bidders have been empanelled.

Against the target of 10,000 GPUs outlined in the IndiaAI compute pillar, **empanelled bidders have offered 14,517 GPUs at L1 rates**. Further, an IndiaAI Compute Portal has been developed for accessing and leveraging the empanelled AI services on cloud at **an average rate of Rs. 115 per GPU hour with Government providing support of upto 40%.**
To keep pace with the changes in technologies and market prices, IndiaAI enables a **continuous empanelment process**. IndiaAI would renew the empanelment every quarter inviting fresh proposals from the empanelled agencies for discovering any revised rates. Empanelled agencies shall submit a revised financial proposal which can be same or lower

than the existing L1 rates. IndiaAI has published the RFE for continuous empanelment on 21st February, 2025. The last date of submission of proposals is 30th April 2025.

Towards the industry collaboration, IndiaAI has **signed MoUs** with Global technology partners like Meta, IBM, Microsoft in the field of AI & Emerging Technologies.

IndiaAI on 30th January, 2025 had **launched a Call for Proposals** inviting proposals from startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs to collaborate **on building state-of-the-art foundational AI models trained on Indian datasets**. The initiative aims to establish indigenous AI models that align with global standards while addressing unique challenges and opportunities within the Indian context.

In the first month, IndiaAI Mission has received a total of **67 proposals till 15thFebruary** aimed at building India's foundation models, with contributions from both established startups and new teams of researchers & academia. Along with funding support, a **wide range of GPUs have been requested** by teams submitting these proposals.

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