

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1484
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 31.07.2024

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

1484. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU
SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) measures being undertaken to regulate the development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies across various sectors, considering potential ethical, societal and economic impacts;
- (b) measures being undertaken to ensure transparency and accountability in the algorithms used in AI systems to safeguard against biases discrimination and privacy infringements;
- (c) details of initiatives to promote research and development in AI while concurrently establishing frameworks to manage risks associated with AI technologies, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities and job displacement; and
- (d) details of government engagement with stakeholders, including industry leaders, academic institutions and civil society organisations, to formulate comprehensive policies or guidelines for the responsible adoption of AI technologies in India?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):The Government is cognizant of the need to create guardrails to ensure that development and deployment of AI solutions is safe and trusted. Accordingly, the Government after extensive public consultations with relevant stakeholders has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 which were subsequently amended 28.10.2022 and 6.4.2023. The IT Rules, 2021 cast specific legal obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries and platforms, to ensure their accountability towards safe and trusted internet including their expeditious action towards removal of the prohibited misinformation, patently false information and deepfakes. In case of failure of the intermediaries to observe the legal obligations as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, they lose their safe harbour protection under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (“IT Act”) and shall be liable for consequential action or prosecution as provided under any extant law.

Also, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has been enacted on 11th August, 2023 which casts obligations on Data Fiduciaries to safeguard digital personal data, holding them accountable, while also ensuring the rights and duties of Data Principals.

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 AI space and ensure responsible and transformational use of AI 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.

The government has constituted an Advisory Group for India specific Regulatory AI framework with stakeholders including government officials, industry leaders, academicians. Its mandate is to promote innovation and ensure adequate guardrails to protect common citizens against the possible misuse and user harms. Specifically, the terms of reference of the Advisory Group includes creating contextualised ethical guidelines which are adaptable in India and promote development of trustworthy, fair, and inclusive AI. The Government also organized the Global India AI Summit and GPAI Summit in July 2024 and December 2023 where various stakeholders from government, industry and academia engaged in discussions and deliberations for development of AI based solutions in a safe and trusted manner.
