

Abstract

Question Answering Systems (QAS) have become more popular than the traditional search engines by providing relevant and concise answers to domain-specific questions. Moreover, the Legal Domain comprising of long and difficult-to-comprehend Legal Acts, benefit significantly from such answering systems. Therefore, we intend to present a closed domain QAS for Legal Documents, particularly the Indian Legal Acts, using the Transfer Learning approach. The proposed system is designed to pre-process the overlong Legal Acts into small yet significant contexts, for answering the posed questions using the state-of-the-art BERT Model, fine tuned on an Indian Legal Dataset that consists of human-generated and system-generated questions, containing around 2250 questions. Additionally, the Question Generation (QG), which is an auxiliary component of the system, developed using Google's T5 model, demonstrates the automatic generation of system-generated questions based on the Indian Acts for the Legal dataset. For answering system, BERT variants were experimented and BERT-large model was chosen as the best model for fine tuning. The Legal QAS produces reliable results by answering the questions from the Legal test set, containing human generated questions, with an Exact Match (EM) of 77.38 and a F1-score of 76.26. The results give us a preliminary assurance of the system, answering the questions on the complicated Legal Acts in an easy-to-understand manner.