GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2501

TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2018

LOSS OF JOBS DUE TO AUTOMATION

2501. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken measures to study the effect of automation on job-loss in IT sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has prepared an action plan to balance the onset of Artificial Intelligence replacing human jobs, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

- (a): Yes, Sir. The Government has studied the future job perspectives in various sectors including IT. According to a study report "Future of Jobs in India A 2022 perspective" supported by NASSCOM and FICCI, Voice-based services (call centre agents), Data entry operators, Document processing, System administration, and F&A (accounts payable) are types of jobs likely to be automated. The study further suggests that the workforce in the year 2022 would have about 9% deployed in new jobs that do not exist today, 37% would be deployed in jobs that have radically changed skill sets, and about 54% would fall under unchanged job category.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): Yes, Sir. Due to exponential and disruptive adoption of new technologies by the industry over a period of next 3 to 4 years, the job mix in the IT industry is undergoing a transformative change. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. To cater to these requirements, a 'technology enabled Re-Skilling/ Up-Skilling Framework' for the employees of IT sector has been evolved in consultation with NASCCOM, Industry and Academia, with Government acting as an enabler/ facilitator. Through this initiative Industry and Government have come together to Re-skill/ Up-skill a total of 2 Million employees of IT sector over a period of five years. MeitY has also signed a MoU with NASSCOM to collaborate and strengthen cooperation in the re-skilling and up-skilling of employees in areas of new and emerging technologies.
