PROMOTION OF ARITIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

1357   SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the country in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government of India has taken several steps to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the country in a big way.

(b): The following are the details:

i.   Government has launched **'National AI Portal'** which is a repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives in the country for all stakeholders at a single place
ii.   Government has initiated **'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme'** with an objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI in the country. Presently, 908 Full time & 308 part-time PhD candidates are enrolled under the scheme at 97 academic institutions across the country.
iii. Government has initiated **'FutureSkills PRIME** (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)' which aims to create a re-skilling/up-skilling ecosystem in emerging and futuristic technologies including AI.
iv.   To promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT startups using emerging technologies, Government is implementing **TIDE 2.0** (Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs). The Scheme is being implemented through various incubators with an overarching

objective to promote incubation activities at institutes of higher learning and premier R&D organizations

v. To foster innovation through research in technology, government has created several **'Centres of Excellence'** on various emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence. The centres connect various entities such as startups, enterprises, venture capitalists, government and academia to look into problem statements and develop innovative solutions.

vi. Government has developed API (Application Programming Interface) platform called **National Data Highway (NDH)** in March 2020 to enable quick and transparent integration with other e-Governance applications and systems thereby providing access to data and services and promoting citizen participation for the benefit of the community.

vii. **National Programme on Responsible Use of AI for Youth**: With the objective to empower the youth to become AI ready and help reduce the skill gap, government along with Industry partner has started this initiative to promote AI awareness among Government school going children. Presently 50,501 students have registered, and 11,430 students have completed their first level of AI training.

viii. A project on **Imaging BioBank for Cancer** is supported at TMC-ACTREC, Mumbai, AIIMS, New Delhi, IIT, Bombay & RGCIRC, Delhi with an intent to develop AI tools and database for advance research in cancer including cancer diagnosis/ prognosis and cancer care by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

ix. DBT has also supported a major programme **MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative**, to construct a comprehensive and integrated human map by assimilating all the known macro-level and micro-level information from scientific literature and public databases.

x. DBT has also initiated a programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications for **Affordable and Accessible Healthcare-Big Data and Genomics**

xi. Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** with a total outlay of Rs.3660.00 Crores for a period of five years. As part of Mission implementation, a total of 25 **Technology Innovation Hubs** (TIH's) are established across the country. A Technology Innovation Hub is established at Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Kharagpur in the technology vertical Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning at a total cost of Rs. 170.00 Crores for 5 years. It will follow a technology life cycle approach, addressing all stages viz. knowledge-Development-Translation-Commercialization.

(c): In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

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