

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2503
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 15.3.2023

PREPAREDNESS OF METAVERSE

2503. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:

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

- (a) whether India has entered into the Preparedness of Metaverse which may supersede the internet; and
- (b) if so, the level of planning India has done so far in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): Metaverse is the latest variant of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality and is one of the basket of emerging technologies that take future of internet through AI, Web 3.0, IOT, 6G etc. Metaverse and innovation around Metaverse, government is committed in ensuring support to startups and fostering the growth of the Metaverse, AR/VR innovation system as part of its digital technology initiatives. The various initiatives taken by the Government are as follows:

- i. Government has published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018 and proposes to develop an ecosystem for the research and adoption of Artificial Intelligence i.e. #AI for ALL.
- ii. With the vision to make India a global leader in AI space and to ensure responsible and transformational use of AI for All, MeitY has undertaken the implementation of the “National Program on Artificial Intelligence”. The program aims to establish a comprehensive program for leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation, and adoption for social impact.
- iii. MeitY has released National Strategy on Blockchain. This document provides strategies and recommendations for the Indian Blockchain ecosystem to harness the benefits of this emerging technology by focusing on technological and administrative aspects.
- iv. MeitY has also established Centres of Excellence in various emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Virtual & Augmented Reality, Computer Vision etc. to explore opportunities in these specialized fields. These centres provide start-ups with premium plug-and-play co-working spaces and access to the ecosystem.
- v. Department of Science & Technology is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to promote R&D, Human Resource Development (HRD), Technology Development, Entrepreneurship Development, International Collaboration etc. As part of this Mission 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) in advanced technologies have been established in reputed institutes across the country.
- vi. 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.
