GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2769
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH MARCH, 2022

TASK FORCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AI

2769. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any multi-stakeholder task force for Strategic Implementation of Artificial Intelligence and Defence, constituted by Government has submitted any report for the modernization of defence/military organization for the capacity building;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering to push for greater AI and ML-based military technology innovation for the vast improvement in security infrastructure in the border areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government so far?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE   (SHRI AJAY BHATT)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(a) & (b): To study the whole gamut of issues surrounding strategic implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in national security perspective, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP) set up a multi-stakeholder Task Force in March,2018 under the Chairmanship of Sh. N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons. The Task Force submitted its report in June 2018. Following were the major recommendations of the Task Force:

i)	Integrating and embedding AI strategy for Defence with Defence strategy.
ii)	Establishment of a High level Defence AI Council(DAIC) and a Defence AI Project Agency(DAIPA).
iii)	Development of Data Management Framework, Establishing Data Management Office and appointing Data Management Officer.
iv)	Scaling the existing capability of Data Centers and establishing a centrally facilitated network of Test Beds.
v)	Creation of a framework to work with Industry and encouraging startups to develop AI capability for Defence and IP management.

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vi)   Organising AI training courses in all Defence training centers and institutes for training of Defence Personnel.

vii)   Earmarking of AI budget from yearly Defence Budget with a corpus of Rs 1,000 crores to be provided each year for next 5 years to support AI activities.

Based on the recommendations of the aforesaid Task Force, Ministry of Defence through an Executive Order dated 08.02.2019 created Defence AI Council (DAIC) under the Chairmanship of Rakhsa Mantri and Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA) with Secretary (DP) as ex officio head for providing necessary guidance to enable and effect development of operating framework, policy level changes and structural support for AI adoption.

Moreover, the Services have established organizational Institutional mechanism in the form of AI Sub Committee and Joint Working Group on AI in Tri-Services. As part of the Data Management Framework, Services have formulated data policy and appointed Data Management Officers. Each Service has also identified key AI domains for development of AI projects. Besides, the Services are also engaged in development of AI projects from the Startups through the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and Academia. Towards capacity building, officers at different levels from the Services have been nominated to different courses on AI, both in-house and at reputed academic institutes.

Further, an AI roadmap has also been finalised for each DPSU under which 61 defence specific AI projects have been identified for development. Out of these 61 projects, 26 projects have been completed by the DPSUs.

(c) & (d):   The information is sensitive in nature and cannot be divulged in the interest of National Security.

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