GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 2458
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2025

SUPPORT FOR DEEP-TECH STARTUPS IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

2458. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
(a) whether Government is formulating policies to support deep-tech Startups in Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductor design and quantum computing;
(b) the financial incentives, Research and Development (R&D) grants or incubation programs planned to boost innovation;
(c) the steps taken to attract private investment, strengthen industry-academia collaboration and develop skilled talent; and
(d) whether Government is exploring global partnerships or policy frameworks to enhance India's competitiveness in emerging technologies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d):Government has undertaken various efforts for the development and growth of startup ecosystem across various sectors including deep tech startups in artificial intelligence (Al), semiconductor design, quantum computing and other emerging technologies. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has recently approved IndiaAI Mission with an outlay of Rs. 10,371.92 Cr over a period of 5 years, aiming to catalyze the AI innovation ecosystem in the country for global competitiveness of India's AI startups, researchers and industry. IndiaAI Startup Financing is one of the pillars of IndiaAI mission with an outlay of Rs. 1942.5 Cr, aiming to support and accelerate deep tech AI startups. IndiaAI FutureSkills Pillar of IndiaAI mission envisions to augment the number of graduates, post-graduate and PhDs in AI domain. The IndiaAI Mission in collaboration with Station F (Paris, France) and HEC Paris, announced an ambitious acceleration program to provide 10 selected Indian AI startups with access to mentorship, networking, and global market expansion opportunities in Europe.

MeitY has also initiated Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1000 Cr for 5 years under 'Semicon India Programme' and Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme with an outlay of Rs. 250 Crore for 5 years wherein, there is a provision for startups by offering support across various stages of development & deployment of semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design. The C2S Programme also offers students hands-on experience in chip design, fabrication, and testing through regular training sessions conducted in collaboration with various industry partners.

Further, to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Tier-II and Tier-III cities in India, MeitY has also initiated the 'Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS)' Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 490 Crore over period of five years wherein, there is provision to support total 25 deep tech startups also with a funding upto Rs. 1.0 Crore per startup. Also, the Cabinet has approved the deep-tech reactor by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with an outlay of Rs. 50. 0 Cr aiming to create a research sandbox for testing ways of commercializing research-based deep tech start-ups. Government is also supporting startups through various initiatives like Startup India programme, NIDHI programme, AIM, TIDE 2.0 scheme, SAMRIDH scheme,

Domain-specific Centres of Excellence in emerging technologies, NGIS scheme, BioNEST scheme etc. to boost innovation ecosystem.

Government has initiated National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an outlay of Rs. 6003.65 Crore over a period of 8 years, wherein there is a provision to support deep-tech startups working in the areas of quantum technologies and also providing financial assistance, R&D support, and fostering an innovation-driven ecosystem to strengthen India's quantum technology capabilities. Government has also established Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) that aims to receive funds amounting to Rs. 50,000 Cr during 2023-28 in the form of ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund, Special Purpose Funds to foster a culture of research and innovation in India. MeitY has initiated a programme titled "FutureSkills PRIME", jointly with NASSCOM aimed at re-skilling/ up-skilling of candidates in new/emerging technologies by integrating industry-aligned skilling into academic curricula through state and university partnerships to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Further, Government has undertaken global partnerships in emerging technologies including, 'Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)' wherein, India has joined as a founding member and contributed significantly to its vision of advancing Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI globally. Government has collaborated with USA and UK through 'Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies(i-CET)' and 'UK India Technology Security Initiative (India-UK TSI)' respectively for two emerging technology streams namely, quantum technologies and advanced materials.

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