

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1728
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

ONLINE REAL MONEY GAMES

1728. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:
SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that 'Online Real Money Games' have become extremely popular especially among the youth leading to increased instances of betting fraud applications and illegal advertising and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the extent to which recent amendments to Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and related advisories have been able to achieve their intended purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has planned further interventions in the area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the manner in which the Union and State Governments can cooperate better to safeguard common people from Betting, gambling and their incidental negative effects in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that the Internet in India is open, safe, trusted and accountable to all users. With regard to the risk to users from online games, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) was allocated the matters related to online gaming on 23rd December, 2022 through amendments to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The policy of the Government in respect of the online gaming sector is aimed at putting in place adequate checks and balances and safeguards against the risks of harms. Further, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an advisory, advising the print and electronic media to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms, and online and social media, including online advertisement intermediaries and publishers, not to display such advertisements in India or target such advertisements towards Indian audience. The Ministry has also issued an advisory to all private satellite television channels on 'Advertisements on Online Games, Fantasy Sports, etc.', advising all broadcasters that the guidelines issued by the Advertising Standards Council of India be complied with and that the advertisements broadcast on television adhere to the same.
