GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580 ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015 Regulating Content of Mobile Apps Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Reddy Shri Ch. Malla;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Vanaroja Smt. R.;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee to regulate and monitor content on mobile applications, including location of data server in the country, if so, the details including the terms of reference thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report/findings and if so, the details thereof including the findings/ suggestions/recommendations of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Telecom regulator has recommended the Government to hold an exhaustive, Multi-ministry, Multidepartment consultation regarding Over The Top (OTT) services in order to ensure that consumer does not suffer and stakeholders are aware of legal and regulatory issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the action initiated by the Government in this regard and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the other measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of telecom operators as well as the telecom subscribers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Madam, the Department of Telecommunications has not set up any Committee to regulate and monitor content on mobile applications, including location of data server in the country.

(c) to (e) The TRAI has released a consultation paper on "Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services" on 27th March, 2015 for inviting comments from various stakeholders. In response, TRAI has received a large number of comments in response to the consultation paper on "Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top services". This consultation paper along with comments received is available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in.