

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3085
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2021

Regulating Cryptocurrency

3085. Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:-

- (a) the grounds on which Government is planning to propose a ban on the cryptocurrencies;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any primary or first-hand research/stakeholder consultation to derive on the above mentioned grounds; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): It was announced in the Budget Speech for 2018-19 that “The Government does not consider crypto-currencies legal tender or coin and will take all measures to eliminate use of these crypto-assets in financing illegitimate activities or as part of the payment system. The Government will explore use of block chain technology proactively for ushering in digital economy.” A high level Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Economics Affairs) to study the issues related to virtual currencies (VCs) and propose specific actions to be taken in this matter recommended in its report that all private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency issued by the State, be prohibited in India. The Government would take a decision on the recommendation of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in the Parliament following due process.
