

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/04/2022**

MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS BY GAMBLING WEBSITES

4136. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of misleading advertisements by illegal offshore betting and gambling websites on Indian TV and OTT channels;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any measures to stop such advertisements;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) is empowered to take action against such advertisement violations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the actions taken by the ASCI to stop advertisements of illegal offshore betting and gambling companies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS, (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder require that all advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels to adhere to the Advertising Code, prescribed under the Act, which inter-alia provides that the advertisements have to conform to the laws of the country. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issues advisories from time to time to broadcasters for ensuring compliance to the Advertising Code.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an advisory on 04.12.2020 to private satellite TV channels to comply with the guidelines of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) on advertisements relating to online gaming to protect consumers and inform them regarding financial risk and other factors involved in online gaming.

Also, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established under Consumer Protection Act, 2019 for protection and enforcement of consumer rights as a class. The CCPA can issue directions to concerned trader or manufacture or endorser or advertiser or publisher, as the case may be, to discontinue misleading advertisement or to modify the same.

(d) & (e): Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) which is a self regulating body of the Industry, examines complaints relating to gaming advertisements of offshore gaming companies in the context of contravention of the ASCI code or Guidelines on Online Gaming for real money winnings. From January 2021 to January 2022, ASCI has processed 117 complaints related to Online real money gaming.
