

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2017
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.3.2023

GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT FOR VIDEO GAMES

2017. DR. PRASHANTA NANDA:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there shall be guidelines to determine age-appropriate content for video games;
- (b) whether an institution shall be set up to monitor and certify the video games rolled out in the Indian market; and
- (c) how far can the policy measure meet the international standards set by the PanEuropean Game Information (PEGI) in the EU and Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) in North America?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to formulate guidelines for video games.

However, to help achieve the aim of making the Internet Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable for its users, the Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by the Information Technology Act, 2000, has made the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. These rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries, including intermediaries offering online games, to observe due diligence and provide that if they fail to observe such due diligence, they shall no longer be exempt from their liability under law for third-party information or data or communication link hosted by them. Such due diligence includes the following:

- (i) An intermediary shall make reasonable efforts to cause its user not to host, display, publish, transmit or share any information that is harmful to child, or relates to or encourages gambling, or violates any law for the time being in force.
- (ii) The intermediary shall not host, store or publish unlawful information prohibited under law for the time being in force, on a voluntary basis on violation of the above, and on actual knowledge upon receipt of a grievance or court order or notice from the appropriate government or its agency.
- (iii) The intermediary shall provide, upon receipt of an order from a lawfully authorised government agency, information or assistance for prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution under law.
