

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.731
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2023

ONLINE GAMING COMPANIES

731. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to bring the self-regulating system for theregistered online gaming companies, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the fact that self regulation and lack of properoversight by Government will lead to massive abuses by the online gaming companies, ifso, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to prevent such abuses by Online gaming companies; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that internet in India is open, safe, trusted and accountable to all users. 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 Ministry, within a fortnight, prepared the draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) in exercise of the powers given under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and commenced public consultations on the same on 2nd January, 2023. After extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders including National Commission For Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), children, teacher, users of online games, online gaming companies, other concerned Ministries, etc., the amendment to the IT Rules, 2021 were notified on 6th April 2023. These rules enforce greater accountability on online gaming and social media intermediaries in respect of online games. Further, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (“MIB”) 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. MIB 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.
