

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1947**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.12.2019

**THREAT OF MOBILE GAMES**

**1947. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that dangerous mobile games like Blue Whale, PUBG, etc. are becoming serious threat to the children;
- (b) whether Government has any plan and mechanism to stop such games;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): There had been media reports about alleged threats to the children due to dangerous mobile games like Blue Whale, PUBG and Momo Challenge Game. Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc. Law Enforcement Agencies take action under existing legal provisions for removal of malicious contents/materials and prosecuting the offenders.

Government has issued guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools vide circular dated. 18.08.2017. Further, Government had issued advisories on online dangerous games including on “Blue Whale Challenge Game” and also “Momo Challenge Game”. Minister, MWCD wrote to principals of all the schools to take steps to address the issue of online dangerous games.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) sent an advisory related to online dangerous games to Ministry of Women and Child Development on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The advisory contains best practices for parents and school teachers.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) published an advisory regarding “blue whale challenge” and published on its website (<http://meity.gov.in/advisory-blue-whale-challenge-game>) on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Ministry of Electronics & IT published another advisory regarding “Momo challenge game” on its website on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

MeitY and CERT-In interacted with service providers and social media platforms regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games.

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