

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2503**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2018

**ACTION AGAINST WEBSITES PUBLISHING BLUE WHALE CHALLENGE GAME**

**2503. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by Government against the websites publishing Blue Whale Challenge game which led to suicides by teenagers in the country;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any mechanism to keep a check on such websites in future; and
- (c) whether Government has issued any guidelines to schools to prevent children from using such websites?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS )

(a): Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had constituted a Committee to investigate all cases where suicides were committed or attempted allegedly using Blue Whale Challenge Game. The Committee findings could not establish involvement of 'Blue Whale challenge game' in any of incidents reported to them. The Committee also could not find any specific website(s) hosting Blue Whale Challenge Game.

(b): Government has taken various steps to prevent harmful online games, such as:

- (i) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and CERT-In interacted with service providers of social media regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games.
- (ii) Government has asked popular social media sites not to host any such dangerous online games and immediately remove the same as and when detected.
- (iii) Government has also published advisory/awareness materials on the websites, Newspapers, etc. regarding the dangers of Blue Whale Challenge Game.
- (iv) MeitY published an advisory related to protection of children from Blue Whale Game on its website (<http://meity.gov.in/advisory-blue-whale-challenge-game>) on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) Law Enforcement Agencies regularly monitor the social media sites and take action under existing legal provisions for removal of malicious contents/materials and prosecuting the offenders

(c): Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools vide circular dated 18.08.2017.

Minister, Women and Child Development wrote to Principals of all schools in the country on 31st August 2017 to take immediate steps to protect children from Blue Whale Challenge Game.

\*\*\*\*\*