

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1376**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.12.2018

**LIFE-THREATENING ONLINE CHALLENGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**1376. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of dangerous, life-threatening online challenges spread through social media, e.g., the Momo challenge, etc.;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Ministry to lessen their harm; and
- (c) the preventive measures undertaken by the Ministry to curb these challenges?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (c): There had been media reports about alleged suicides/ attempted suicides due to dangerous, life-threatening online challenges like Blue Whale Challenge game, Momo Challenge Game etc. Government has taken several steps and preventive measures to curb these challenges. These, *inter alia*, include :

- (i) Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools vide circular dated. 18.08.2017.
- (ii) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) issued advisories on “Blue Whale Challenge Game” as well as “Momo Challenge Game”. Minister of Women and Child Development, wrote to all the schools in India warning them about such games and to take immediate steps within the schools to prevent students from falling prey to these. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) also wrote to all the institutions affiliated to CBSE detailing the precautions to be taken on an online game.
- (iii) MeitY and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (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. Government has asked popular social media sites not to host any such dangerous online games and immediately remove the same as and when detected.
- (iv) 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.

\*\*\*\*\*