

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1199
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

APP BASED DIGITAL GAMES

1199. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the app based digital games broadcast through different channels encourage students, youth and people from all sections of the society to play those games and money transactions in above games are done through digital wallet or from the respective bank account of the individual;
- (b) if so, the volume of the market size of such games available in India and whether there is any plan to discontinue these app based games;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any plan to bring such games under the category of gambling; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The rapid expansion of mobile ecosystem and Internet in India has also seen emergence of many new categories of mobile Apps including online gaming Apps. Government is aware of the possible risks and challenges including that of user harms associated with online games and their advertisements through different channels/media.

(b): Government is aware of the growing number of online games available in India and also the opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship associated with them. Apart from some industry estimates available in public domain, this Ministry does not have any precise details about the market size of such games available in India.

Online gaming platforms are intermediaries and they have to follow the due diligence as prescribed in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the Rules thereunder. All forms of gambling and betting come under the purview of State Governments and they have enacted their laws to deal with the same within their jurisdictions under List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Based on the requests received from the designated Nodal Officers of the Ministries/States on specified grounds, this Ministry blocks Apps/URLs following the due process specified in the

Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, notified under section 69A of the IT Act.

(c) and (d): There is no specific proposal with this Ministry.
