

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1376**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.12.2017

**SUICIDE BY CHILDREN DUE TO ONLINE GAMES**

**1376. SHRI AMAR SINGH:**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Blue Whale Challenge game that has led many children suicide in various parts of the Country:

(b) if so, the number of victims during the last four months; and

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with Google India, WhatsApp, Yahoo India and other internet giants to remove the links of the killer online game and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a) and (b): There had been media reports about alleged suicides/ attempted suicides due to dangerous online game like Blue Whale Challenge Game. In this regard, Government has constituted a Committee to investigate all cases where suicides were committed or attempted allegedly using dangerous online games like 'Blue Whale Challenge Game'. The Committee findings could not establish any involvement of Blue Whale challenge game in any of incidents reported to them.

(c): Government has taken up the matter with major social media sites. The details are :

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) wrote an email dated 12.05.2017 to Google India requesting Google India to unlist/remove the game/apps from relevant platforms like Google Play, to avoid further circulation/downloading of the Blue Whale Challenge Game.
- MeitY wrote emails dated 27.06.2017 to Facebook India and Twitter India to take appropriate steps to stop the Blue Whale Challenge Game and its spread in India.
- MeitY on 14.08.2017 issued directives to Google India, Microsoft India, Facebook India and Yahoo India, directing them to ensure that all links of the Blue Whale Challenge Game and of any similar games are immediately removed from their platforms. The directive further instructed these companies to report the proponent of this game to Law Enforcement Agencies.
- MeitY and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team interacted with service providers of social media on 07.09.2017 regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games.

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