GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 639
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

Allowing online betting and introducing regulations/ legislations

639. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been demands from various quarters to allow online betting and introduce regulations/ legislations for legalising betting in various sports including cricket in the country, if so, details and present status thereof;

(b) whether All India Gaming Federation has submitted a white paper to the Law Commission in this regard, if so, details and present status thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to sign an agreement with United Kingdom in this regard, if so, details and present status thereof; and

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of possible social ramifications of legalising such betting and if so, details and outcome thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.))

(a) & (b) Sir, Betting and Gambling are State subjects as per item no. 34 of the list II, Schedule 7, of the Constitution of India. The Law Commission of India has undertaken the study on the subject titled 'the Issue of Legalizing Betting and Gambling' in view of the Order/judgment dated 18.07.2016 by the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 4235/2014, Board of Control for Cricket in India vs. Cricket Association of Bihar & Others and has invited views and suggestions with regard to the possibility of legalizing betting and gambling, and to arrive at an opinion for making suitable suggestions and recommendations to the Central Government. The issue(s) 'Allowing online betting and introducing regulations/legislations' is also addressed by the Law

Commission in the above mentioned subject/project. The suggestions have also been sought separately by the Law Commission from all States Governments, National Sports Federations, State Cricket Associations,Board of Control for Cricket in India etc. The Law Commission has received a number of responses from various stakeholders. All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has also forwarded its suggestions. The same are being examined by the Commission. Since the matter involves social ramifications and important questions of Law, it needs wider consultation and detailed examination. Hence, it is not possible to lay down a time frame by when the Law Commission of India would be able to make its recommendations.

(c) & (d) No, Sir.

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