

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 524  
ANSWERED ON TUESDAY THE 07<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**SETTING UP INTER-MINISTERIAL PANEL FOR DEMARCATING POLICIES**

**QUESTION**

524. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering setting up an Inter-Ministerial Panel for demarcating policies that cannot be examined by the Competition Commission of India (CCI);
- (b) if so, the details of the Panel and the policies under consideration for demarcating;
- (c) whether there have been concerns regarding CCI's role in regulating emerging technologies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has assessed the economic impact of CCI's orders; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies, the Government has constituted a committee to examine the need for a separate law on competition in digital markets.

(c) & (d): CCI has been enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 ('the Act') across various sectors of the economy including technology markets. In 2018, the Government of India had constituted the Competition Law Review Committee to review and recommend a robust competition regime. The Committee submitted its Report in 2019. The Committee found that the Act is sufficient to deal with the issues arising from new age markets. However, it observed that certain combinations (mergers & acquisitions), such as transactions forming part of digital markets, do not meet traditional asset and turnover thresholds but may still have an effect on competition and inter-alia recommended to provide an enabling provision including a deal value threshold for combination notifications. A Bill for amendments in the Act introduced in the Lok Sabha on 05.08.2022 has proposed that cases of acquisition, control, merger and amalgamations, wherein value of transaction exceeds Rs.2000 crore, shall require prior approval of the Commission.

(e) & (f): No such specific study has been conducted by the Government. However, since its inception and until 31.12.2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has reviewed 1213 antitrust matters (Section 3 & 4 of the Act) and has disposed 1102 cases. This includes intervention in diverse sectors such as real estate, financial markets, pharmaceuticals & healthcare, power, digital markets, media & entertainment, railways, public procurement, etc. The Commission has also reviewed 995 combination matters (Section 5 & 6 of the Act) and have disposed 981 combination notices.

The Commission has been undertaking various initiatives from time to time to ensure effective competition and fair play in the market. These, inter-alia, include conducting market studies on relevant sectors like Cab Aggregator Industry, Common Ownership, Film Distribution Chain, Pharmaceutical Sector, Telecom Sector and E-Commerce in India and various advocacy outreach initiatives on competition law & practices.

These initiatives and interventions are directed to fulfil the objectives of the Act, i.e. to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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