GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1312 ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, THE 01st AUGUST, 2023

INVESTIGATION ON ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

QUESTION

1312 SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) needs to be engaged more pro-actively and do an investigation on the anti-competitive practices followed by big tech companies;
- (b) whether it is a also fact that Google is engaged in anti competitive conduct and practices for the last three years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken or contemplating to take against Google by various Departments and agencies of Government?

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): The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has taken cognisance of alleged anti-competitive practices indulged in by big tech firms such as Google, Apple, Flipkart &Amazon, Meta-WhatsApp, Zomato &Swiggy, MakeMyTrip, OYO, BookMyShow and ordered investigation(s). In cases where an inquiry has been completed by the CCI, final orders have been issued imposing monetary penalties apart from issuing cease-and-desist order and remedies. CCI has also taken suo moto cognisance of 'Updated Terms of Service and Privacy Policy for WhatsApp users' and ordered investigation.
- (b) & (c): As per the information provided by CCI, in the past 3 years, CCI has passed final orders against Google under Section 27 of the Competition Act, 2002 (the 'Act') in Case No. 39 of 2018 (Google Android Case) and Case Nos. 07 of 2020, 14 of 2021 & 35 of 2021 (Google Pay matter) on 20.10.2022 and 25.10.2022 respectively wherein CCI has imposed penalty of Rs 1337.76 crore and Rs 936.44 crore respectively apart from issuing cease-and-desist order and remedies. Inquiry against Google in certain matters, other than those where orders under Section 27 of the Act have already been passed, is currently pending before the CCI.