GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 879

TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

ADVERTISEMENTS OF ONLINE BETTING AND GAMBLING

879 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has created or maintains a list of mobile applications or websites involved in illegal online betting and gambling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether those websites, news channels, newspapers and TV channels carrying advertisements for such applications have faced action, as per the advisories issued;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government plans on instituting a regulatory body for advertisement of illegal activities such as these?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

- (a) & (b): "Betting and Gambling" come under Entry 34 and 62 of List II of the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution which provides for their regulation by States. Based on the erstwhile Public Gambling Act, 1867, most State Governments have enacted their own laws to deal with betting and gambling within their jurisdictions.
- (c) to (e): As betting and gambling is illegal in most parts of the country, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued advisories dated 13.06.2022, 03.10.2022 and 06.04.2023 to print, electronic and digital media to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms or their surrogate products/services, which are available on the Ministry's website i.e. www.mib.gov.in.

This Ministry takes appropriate action whenever a specific violation in this regard comes to the notice of the Ministry.
