

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 719
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.07.2025

REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING PLATFORMS

719. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

- (a) the number and details of online gaming platforms registered under the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2023, along with their classification, year-wise;
- (b) whether clear and standardized criteria have been established to distinguish games of skill from games of chance, and if not, the reasons for the delay;
- (c) the number of complaints received and resolved related to fraud, addiction, unfair practices and others, year-wise;
- (d) the measures taken to address gaming addiction and consumer protection;
- (e) the details and outcomes of such interventions; and
- (f) the details of plans to strengthen regulation and safeguard users in this sector?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (f): The Central Government has taken various steps to counter the risks and harms posed by online gaming. These measures aim to safeguard users from addiction, financial frauds, money laundering and other unlawful activities.

Information Technology Act, 2000: Legal and Regulatory Framework

- IT Rules, 2021 (framed under the act) amended in October 2022 & April 2023 includes specific provisions for regulating online gaming intermediaries
- Intermediaries, including online gaming intermediaries, must ensure that information that violates any extant law is not hosted or transmitted on the network
- Online gaming intermediaries offering permissible online real money games are required to register with online gaming self-regulatory bodies (SRBs)
- SRBs are required to verify an online real money game as a permissible online real money game.
- Provisions to issue blocking orders to intermediaries for blocking access to specific information/ link as per Section 69A of IT Act, 2000

1,524 blocking directions related to online betting/gambling/gaming websites (including mobile applications) have been issued between the year 2022- 25 (till June, 2025)

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (“BNS”)

- Section 111 of BNS deals with penalties for commission of unlawful activity including economic offence, cyber-crimes
- Section 112 of BNS penalises commission of unauthorised betting & gambling with a minimum imprisonment of 1 year, extendable up to 7 years, & has provision of fine too

IGST Act

The Central Government has also taken suitable steps to curb the presence of illegal/non-compliant online gaming entities including offshore online money entities operating in violation of the applicable laws relating to taxation.

- Suppliers of online money gaming are regulated under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (“IGST Act”)
- Single registration needed under the Simplified Registration Scheme referred to in the IGST Act
- Directorate General of GST Intelligence Headquarters is empowered as appropriate government/agency under the IT Act and the IGST Act to direct intermediaries to disable access to unregistered online money gaming platforms including offshore online money gaming platforms violating the IGST Act

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (“CPA”)

- Regulates unauthorised trade practices and prohibits any misleading advertisements and their endorsements.
- Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) empowered to redress complaints and issues relating to the same
- CCPA can investigate, issue appropriate order against unfair trade practices such as misleading advertisements and surrogate advertisements, including penalties, and initiate criminal action

CCPA has issued advisories to prevent surrogate & misleading advertisements. Celebrities and influencers have been explicitly warned against endorsing such platforms.

Advisories by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)

- Advisories issued by MIB on 13.06.2022, 03.10.2022, 06.04.2023, 25.08.2023, and 21.04.2024 to media houses, influencers, social media platforms, and online ad intermediaries
- Platforms asked to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms that are misleading
- Compliance sought with the Consumer Protection Act, Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, associated codes, and Press Council’s journalistic norms

Ministry of Education has issued advisories for parents & teachers on “Overcoming online gaming downsides” and “Children's safe online gaming”.

Reporting cyber crimes and online frauds

- All types of cyber-crimes, including cyber frauds, can be reported on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>)

- Incidents reported are then routed to the respective State/UT law enforcement agency for further necessary action
- Distinct mechanisms in the portal for registering complaints related to financial frauds
- Toll-free Helpline number “1930” to help in lodging online complaints

Further, ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The States/UTs are primarily responsible for action on illegal betting and gambling through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

Central Government supplements the initiatives of the States/UTs through advisories and financial assistance under various schemes for the capacity building of their LEAs. These efforts underscore the Government’s firm commitment to promoting a safe, responsible, and accountable online gaming ecosystem.
