

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1615
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023/ SRAVANA 9, 1945 (SAKA)
DC ACT-58
QUESTION

1615. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to include the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as part of the panel for the draft Digital Competition Act;**
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has any justification for not including any digital news media publishers in the Government's inter-ministerial panel that is meant to help bolster the draft Digital Competition Act; and**
- (d) 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) to (d): No, Sir. On the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Anti-competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies, the Government of India has constituted a Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) on 06.02.2023 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs comprising of 08 other members from different fields and representatives from other Ministries and Departments; viz; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Commerce, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Department of Consumer Affairs, NITI Aayog to examine the need for a separate law on competition in digital markets. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CDCL, inter-alia, include, (a) to review whether existing provisions in the Competition Act, 2002, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder are sufficient to deal with the challenges that have emerged from the digital economy; (b) to examine the need for an ex-ante regulatory mechanism for digital markets through a separate legislation; (c) to study the international best practices on regulation in the field of digital markets; (d) to study other regulatory regimes/ institutional mechanisms/ government policies regarding competition in digital markets; (e) to study the practices of leading players/ Systemically Important Digital Intermediaries (SIDIs) which limit or have the potential to cause harm in digital markets; and (f) any other matters related to competition in digital markets as may be considered relevant by the Committee. The Committee has held several meetings since its constitution. Although digital news media publishers are not part of the aforesaid Committee, Digital News Publishers Association and News Paper Association of India were invited among other stakeholders to make presentations and submissions before the Committee.
