

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 6037
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026

OFFSHORE DIGITAL PLATFORM

**6037. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:
SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the extent to which offshore digital platforms accessible to Indian users which have negative impacts on the physical, mental and financial abilities of the individual;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps undertaken by the Government to address these issues including list of such offshore gaming platforms identified and blocked;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to promote digital well-being, user safeguards and responsible digital participation particularly in the context of platforms operating outside Indian jurisdiction;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any steps to raise awareness amongst the youth regarding offshore gaming addiction and its impact on their physical, mental and financial wellbeing; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The policies of Government of India are aimed at ensuring open, safe, trusted and accountable cyberspace for users in the country. The Government is cognizant of the risks and harms arising from the misuse of digital technologies including the offshore digital platforms.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provide a comprehensive framework for user safety and responsible digital participation.

Intermediaries, including offshore digital platforms and gaming platforms, are required to exercise due diligence and prevent hosting or dissemination of unlawful or harmful content. Non-compliance

attracts liability under applicable laws, including the IT Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Online Gaming Act, 2025

Further, the Government has enacted the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (“PROG Act”) with the objective of promoting innovation in e-sports and online social gaming.

It ensures a safe, responsible and accountable online gaming ecosystem in the country by prohibiting online money gaming, restricting related financial transactions, and advertisements.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (“BNS”)

- Section 111 of BNS deals with penalties for commission of unlawful activity including economic offence, cyber-crimes
- Section 112(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (“BNS”) which came into effect from July 1, 2024, punishes unauthorised betting and gambling with minimum 1 year of imprisonment that may extend to 7 years and with fine

Integrated Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (“IGST Act”)

In addition, Government has introduced GST at the rate of 28% in online gaming from 1st October 2023. The supplier of online money gaming shall obtain a single registration under the Simplified Registration Scheme referred to in the IGST Act.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence Headquarters (“DGGI”) is empowered to block unregistered online money gaming platforms, including offshore online money gaming platforms for violating the relevant provisions of IGST Act.

Steps undertaken related to online betting/gambling/gaming websites

A total of 8376 website URLs related to online betting/gambling/gaming including offshore gaming platforms have been issued till 28.03.2026. This includes more than 4800 such URLs being blocked after the enactment of Online Gaming Act, 2025.

Advisories by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)

In addition, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (“MIB”) has issued advisory dated 04.12.2020 to all private satellite television channels to comply with the guidelines issued by the Advertising Standards Council of India (“ASCI”) regarding the advertisements for online gaming and fantasy sports.

The ASCI guidelines mandate that every gaming advertisement carry a disclaimer - in print, static, and audiovisual formats noting that the game involves financial risk and may be addictive.

Awareness Initiatives by University Grants Commission

UGC has issued the “Handbook on Basics of Cyber Hygiene for Higher Educational Institutions (‘HEIs’)” in December 2024. It provides comprehensive guidance on safe digital practices, responsible online behaviour, management of screen time, and mitigation of psychological risks associated with excessive digital exposure, including online gaming and addictive digital platforms.

UGC has advised HEIs to designate Nodal Officers and establish Grievance Redressal Cells for cybercrime support, and to publicize the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) and CyberDost (@CyberDost).

It regularly issues circulars for observance of Cyber Jaagrookta Diwas (first Wednesday of every month) and participation in National Cyber Security Awareness Month (October), with activities such as seminars, competitions, webinars, and outreach.

Under the “UGC Chetna Series”, awareness and knowledge dissemination lectures have been conducted, including:

- Cyber Hygiene in HEIs by I4C, MHA –April 2024 (Online)
- Launch of Cyber Hygiene Handbook and lecture on “Busting Digital Arrest” – June 2024 (Online)
- Cyber Security, Cyber Law and AI Trends by Advocate, Supreme Court – November 2024 (Online)
- Chetna Lecture during National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2025 – 24th October 2025 (Online)
- These initiatives collectively aim to promote digital well-being, enhance awareness among youth regarding online risks including digital addiction, and encourage responsible participation in the digital ecosystem.

National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

MHA has also launched the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) to enable the public to report all types of cyber-crimes including cyber financial frauds. Cybercrime incidents reported on this portal are routed to the respective State/UT law enforcement agency for further action.

The portal has distinct mechanisms for registering complaints related to financial frauds. A tollfree Helpline number “1930” has been operationalised to get assistance in lodging online complaints.

Police and Public Order:

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 digital platforms ecosystem.
