

Regarding need to regulate social media to address its negative impact upon youths of the country-Laid

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology to the critical issue of social media's impact on our youth. Social media's growing influence on Indian youth is shaping their lives in ways that demand immediate intervention. With over 398 million young users in India, teenagers spend an average of 2-3 hours daily on platforms like Instagram and YouTube. Beyond issues like dependency and mental health concerns, unregulated use exposes children to misinformation, skewed ideologies and harmful opinions during their formative years, impacting their emotional development and core values. Studies by NIMHANS reveal that 27% of teens show signs of social media addiction, leading to anxiety, poor academic performance and sleep disorders. ICSSR research highlights that 65% of teens feel pressured by influencers, damaging their self-esteem. Furthermore, unchecked exposure to radical ideas and manipulated content can foster negative thoughts in children in their critical growing years. Countries like Australia, the US, and the EU have introduced stricter regulations to address these challenges, ensuring healthier digital engagement for their youth. I urge the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to give fair resolutions to address this matter and protect the architects of our nation's future.