

Need to take comprehensive measures to control unregulated online trading platforms in the country.-laid

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to the alarming proliferation of illegal online trading platforms offering forex, CFDs, and binary options. Since March 2020, numerous unregulated platforms have emerged, aggressively targeting Indian citizens, particularly Hindi-speaking people, through social media. These platforms operate as off-market trading systems, acting as counterparties to customer trades, thus profiting directly from customer losses. They offer dangerous leverage ratios up to 1000:1, virtually ensuring customers lose their deposits. Ministry data shows RBI received 169 references on unauthorized forex trading in three years with 17 specific loss complaints. More concerning, many platforms now accept RTGS and NEFT payments, indicating they've established Indian entities while operating illegally. While appreciating existing initiatives like RBI's Alert List and the Cyber Fraud Reporting System, I urge the ministry to intensify awareness campaigns specifically targeting potential victims, enhance coordination between regulators, have stricter monitoring of payment channels to these platforms, and strengthen enforcement actions against their Indian operations. These measures would protect vulnerable citizens from significant financial harm.