

## **Need for comprehensive legislation to control online gaming and gambling?**

### **Laid**

**DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE (SHIRUR):** I would like to bring to the attention of the Government a critical public issue with tragic consequences: the devastating impact of online gaming addiction. On June 15, 2025, in Dharashiv district, a 29 year old person, tragically poisoned his 22-year-old wife and 2-year-old son before taking his own life. Investigations confirm that the offender accrued over ₹20 lakh in debt from online Rummy, a burden that remained even after selling significant assets. The Dharashiv Superintendent of Police attributes this tragedy to financial stress and gambling addiction-induced depression. This is not an anomaly. It's the second online gaming-related suicide/murder in Dharashiv this year. Additionally, Maharashtra has seen 12 financial fraud cases in Navi Mumbai and Nashik Rural, and 97 illegal gambling offenses, showcasing the problem's widespread nature. Smartphone accessibility, celebrity endorsements, and "quick riches" lures fuel this addiction, especially among youth. It causes financial ruin, severe mental health issues, and suicidal tendencies, devastating families. Maharashtra's current IT Rules 2021 regulatory framework is clearly insufficient. I urge the Government to immediately introduce robust legislation to regulate online gambling and gaming, implement stricter advertising controls, and enhance mental health support and public awareness campaigns to protect our citizens from this insidious threat.