

BETTING IN INDIA

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BEST CITATION – AISHWARYA SRIVASTAVA, BETTING IN INDIA, *ILE WEEKLY REVIEW (ILE WR)*, 1 (9) OF 2023, PG. 8-10, APIS – 3920 – 0037 | ISBN – 978-81-964391-3-2.

Abstract

This research paper is all about the betting which is being done in India for money. In this, a special focus is given to a game of cricket. As, cricket is the game in which betting takes place the most. A special debate has been takes place in India regarding legalization of online betting. But there are no such laws which prohibits online betting. But, some states in India make some separate laws regarding online betting in India. For example, Public Gambling Act, 1867. This research work also focuses on addiction of betting on youngsters which spoil their lives in every aspect. Cricket or any other sports' betting is very common in today's era. It takes place both in online mode and in offline mode. According to the research, over 400 million people in India watch sports and within them a huge number of people indulge themselves in betting. Betting is famous because it results in earning a huge amount of money in a short span of time without making efforts. After cricket, football is the second most popular sports liked by Indian audience which automatically increases the number of betting cases. There is a positive relationship between the liking of sports and betting. The sports, which liked by the people the most, has a high number of betting cases.

Key Words – Betting, Sports, Cricket, Laws, Gambling, Online, Offline, Legalization, Provisions

Introduction:

Betting is nothing but to risk money on an event/sport by trying to predict the result and if you are right, you win the money. In layman's language, a habit of risking money is known as betting. Nowadays, betting becomes very common. From an uneducated lower-class labour to a high-class politician or businessman indulge themselves in betting. As in betting, skills are not required. You just need to sit on a couch or a sofa, relax yourself and just predict the result and earn money. As a result, anyone can do betting. It is the easiest way on this planet to earn money. But every coin has two faces and betting is not different. It is not only the easiest way but also a very riskier way. Betting is very risky. It has the power to make rich person, a poor person in seconds! That is why it gave birth to many offences also, such as: Murder, Suicide, Kidnapping,

Harassment, etc. Betting is also called 'Gambling'. The fun fact is that Gambling is no more a newer concept. However, it started in *Dwaparyug*. The greatest Hindu epic '*Mahabharata*' introduced the concept of gambling! Where Shakuni plays the game of dice and defeated the king of *Indraprastha* and wins his kingdom. Therefore, betting has very longer roots. Lotteries, card games, dice games and many more carries the concept of betting.

Offline gambling in India

Offline gambling in India is very famous amongst the uneducated people or people who don't know to use the internet. They just predict the result, place their bet and wins or loses. In some states, special places had been set up for these purposes. People, just came here and do gambling. For example, in cricket matches, televisions had been set up in these places for



betting purposes. Some, people use their connections to find the result and hence place their bets and wins the money. In the 21st century, many people have started making money in cash by placing bets upon the gambling activities in India. Casinos have been set up for gambling in some states. For example, Goa. Critics of betting claim that it leads to crime, corruption, and money laundering.

Online gambling in India

There are two types of online gambling available in India. One is casino-type gambling in which gambling takes place online in casinos and the second one is gambling on various sports and events through various applications and websites. Sikkim and Goa, are only places in India which allows online gambling while Sikkim is the only state which allows casino-type gambling. On the other hand, various applications like Dream 11, My 11 Circle, Junglee Rummy, etc allows the user to make money online. However, it is totally legal, as Government deducted tax on the money that is earned by the users through gambling. There is a very interesting story behind the legalisation of online gambling. Previously, it is illegal to do gambling online. After, that Dream 11 (an application which allows betting in the game of cricket) has launched. Some people sue Dream 11 say, that it is based on the concept of betting which is illegal as no skill is needed and it has to be banned. But as a result, Dream 11 lawyers argue in the court and mention that in Dream 11, people have to make their teams on the basis of their knowledge in Cricket and if the player chosen by them performs then only they earn money. They further argue that the process of choosing the players need some skill. As, people who doesn't has the knowledge of Cricket doesn't able to make teams and did not have the capability to win. Therefore, Court granted allowance to Dream 11 and many other fantasy apps and sites which have the concept similar to it. In 2010, Sikkim gives three online gambling licences. By 2022, other states follow Sikkim,

thereby opening up a major online gambling market known as *Matka* gambling.

Legalisation of Betting in India

As we know that there is not a particular source of law regarding betting in India. If we look towards another countries, then gambling laws are very confusing and critical as every country has separate laws regarding gambling. But, if we talk about India only, then the whole country has only two laws: Public Gambling Act, 1867 and Technology Act, 2000. Under, these laws every state in India has the power to set up their own laws regarding gambling in India. According to Public Gambling Act, 1867 gambling is not legal in India but unlike United States India doesn't have a specified set of laws to prohibit gambling. Online betting companies catch the loopholes in the laws of India and do their betting business without any fear.

As mentioned above, every state of India has the power to establish their own laws, the same would followed by the state of Sikkim. On 4th March 2009, Government of Sikkim issues the provisions regarding betting. Sikkim Online Gaming (Regulation) Rules, 2009 which has all the clauses regarding online betting which takes place in the state of Sikkim. If like Sikkim, each and every state set laws regarding betting then it is possible for Indian Government to throw this practice out of the country but unfortunately practically it is not possible.

Some Famous Sports Betting Scandals in India

Raj Kundra Case:

Raj Kundra is the businessman and the husband of the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty. He was the owner of the IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals. On 5th June, Delhi Police questioned him regarding match fixing in 6th edition of IPL. On 6th June, he confessed that he has placed bets through a bookie who was his friend. On 7th June, the management of Rajasthan Royals announced that the Raj Kundra has been suspended from the ownership of the franchise if the charges

framed against him has been proved in the court. On 10th June, he was proven guilty and therefore he has been banned from the IPL from the BCCI.

Gurunath Meiyappan Case:

Vindu Dara Singh is the popular Bollywood actor and the son of famous wrestler and the Bollywood actor Dara Singh. His call records with IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings' team principal N. Srinivasan's son-in-law Gurunath Meiyappan showed that they would involve in some betting scandal. To, investigate this matter, Mumbai Police issued summons against him. On 24th May, 2013 Meiyappan arrested on the charges of betting, conspiracy, and cheating by the Mumbai Crime Branch. On 24th May, 2013 in a press statement India Cements which owns the CSK's franchise said that Mr. Meiyappan was no longer to remain the team owner or CEO. He was only the honorary member of the management of the team. The main reason for this is his arrest. However, on 26th March, 2016 BCCI appoint a three- member commission for investigation in Meiyappan case and as a result, he would declared 'not guilty' by this commission on 31st May. Therefore, on 3rd June, 2016 he was released on 'bail' by the Mumbai Court.

Conclusion

India doesn't have a proper set of laws regarding betting unlike the different countries. In the name of betting it only has two laws which is not enough to decrease the activities related to gambling. If Indian Government wants to protect India from the ill effects of betting then they have to increase the transparency in the betting activities and set a proper set of laws regarding gambling. They have to set such a law which has a capability of governing these online betting sites. The law requires to be perfectly drafted by the Government without any loopholes.

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