Media Coverage

Competition Bill likely to be passed in current session

Jayant Sinha to introduce private member bill on digital competition

Written by Surabhi, March 22, 2023 01:15 IST

https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/competition-bill-likely-to-be-passed-in-current-session/3018017/

Inter-ministerial panel to ensure non-interference of three digital bills

The Digital India bill will focus on openness of internet, safety, trust, and accountability as basic principles in detail, whereas the data protection bill lays rights and duties of the citizen and obligations for data fiduciaries to use collected data lawfully.

Written by Jatin Grover, March 22, 2023 01:45 IST

https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/inter-ministerial-panel-to-ensure-non-interference-of-3-digital-bills/3018048/

CCI to set up in-house digital mkt data unit for regulating tech platforms

Jyoti Jindgar Bhanot, secretary of the CCI, emphasised on early intervention as a key to ensure that competitive landscape in digital markets is not distorted beyond repair

Sourabh Lele, Business Standard, New Delhi

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cci-to-set-up-in-house-digital-mkt-data-unit-for-regulating-tech-platforms-123032200133 1.html

https://taxpublishers.in/Show?Latest/22032023 002.htm

https://beamstart.com/news/cci-to-set-up-in-16794554175525

CCI to set-up in-house-digital-mkt-data-unit

Communications Today, March 23, 2023

https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/cci-to-set-up-in-house-digital-mkt-data-unit/

CCI To Set Up In-House Digital Market Data Unit For Regulating Tech Platforms Legalera Online

https://www.legaleraonline.com/news/cci-to-set-up-in-house-digital-market-data-unit-for-regulating-tech-platforms-857039?infinitescroll=1

Thumbs up. House Panel Chief endorses Govt's idea of 'global turnover' benchmark for antitrust penalties

March 21, 2023 - Updated 09:01 pm IST

Hopeful of Competition Bill getting Parliamentary nod this budget session, says Standing Committee on Finance Chairman Jayant Sinha

BY KR SRIVATS, The Hindubusinessline, march 21, 2023

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/house-panel-chief-endorses-govts-idea-of-global-turnover-benchmark-for-anti-trust-penalties/article66646256.ece

Inter-ministerial panel to ensure non-interference of three digital bills

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Written by Jatin Grover

Lok Sabha member and Standing committee on finance chairman Jayant Sinha on Tuesday said that an inter-ministerial committee on the Digital Competition Bill will ensure that there is no overlap of the government's three upcoming regulations — Digital Competition Bill, Personal Data Protection Bill, and the Digital India Bill.

The comments from the chairman of the parliamentary committee assume significance as there were concerns regarding interference of the three bills that aim at regulating the Big Tech companies, intermediaries, check competition, and the personal data protection.

"These are three non-overlapping domains. Data protection and data privacy is one domain, content and content regulation is another domain, and competition is a third domain. Each one of them is dealing with the different set of issues associated with the digital ecosystem, and all three are required. Sinha said on the sidelines of the International Conference on Competition and Big Tech organised by BRICS Competition Centre, CIRC, and CUTS.

Recently, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar also indicated looking at anti-competitive practices of Big Tech companies under the Digital India Bill. During the consultation of Digital India Bill, Chandrasekhar asked whether the competition issue should be part of the Digital India Bill or not.

The digital competition committee is an inter-ministerial committee. It includes the corporate affairs ministry and MeitY (ministry of electronics and information technology), they will take into account all of these issues, which we as a standing committee cannot do, Sinha said.

They (the committee) will then decide exactly how the legislation has to be crafted taking into account all these different pieces of lawmaking, whether it is the Digital India bill or whether it's a Digital Competition bill, Sinha added.

Technology experts and lawyers have expressed concerns as to how the Digital India bill will avoid overlaps and over regulations, and asked for more clarity on the same.

The Digital India bill will focus on openness of internet, safety, trust, and accountability as basic principles in detail, whereas the data protection bill lays rights and duties of the citizen and obligations for data fiduciaries to use collected data lawfully.

Through the Digital Competition bill, the government aims to curb the anti-competitive practices by big tech companies through a certain set of measures.

https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/inter-ministerial-panel-to-ensure-non-interference-of-3-digital-bills/3018048/

CCI to set up in-house digital mkt data unit for regulating tech platforms

Jyoti Jindgar Bhanot, secretary of the CCI, emphasised on early intervention as a key to ensure that competitive landscape in digital markets is not distorted beyond repair

Topics Competition Commission of India | Tech sector | CCI

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The <u>Competition Commission of India</u> (CCI) is in the process of setting up an in-house digital market data unit, which may act as a "force multiplier" for the competition regulator, while navigating challenges in regulating digital markets, a senior official said.

"Building capacities is a prerequisite for effective interventions in the markets. Therefore, regulators must equip themselves beforehand with necessary skills and capacities to deal with market distortions in complex technology markets. Realising this, the <u>CCI</u> is already in the process of establishing and operationalising digital market data unit," Jyoti Jindgar Bhanot, secretary (I/c) of the CCI, said.

She emphasised on early intervention as a key to ensure that competitive landscape in digital markets is not distorted beyond repair.

"In the digital space, and particularly in the platform markets, tipping off the market can happen at a pace unimaginable from the perspective of traditional market competition regulations," Bhanot said while speaking at the international conference on "Competition and Big Tech" organised by BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre and CUTS International.

The conference brought together leading experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from around the world to discuss emerging issues related to competition law across the BRICS nations. Anti-competitive practices in the automobile markets and industry 4.0, an ecological approach to competition law in the new economy, and ex-ante rules and competition law for the digital economy were among the key issues discussed.

Bhanot said ex-ante approach to competition laws is increasingly getting a global traction.

"Such framework seeks to address the unique challenges of the digital economy by setting clear and predictable rules for market entry, data access, interoperability etc. Designing and implementing effective ex-ante rules require a careful balancing of conflicting interests including the need to protect privacy, incentivised investments, and innovation," she added.

Big tech <u>companies</u> such as Google, Apple, Meta, and Amazon are under global scrutiny for allegedly abusing their market position using chunks of user data. Earlier this year, the <u>CCI</u> slapped Google with Rs 936.44 and Rs 1,337.76 crore penalties in two separate cases.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has formed a committee for drafting a digital competition bill. The panel is also studying if existing provisions in Competition Act, 2002 and related regulations were sufficient to deal with the challenges in the digital economy. The CCI has to provide secretarial and research assistance and logistic support to the panel.

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