

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026

SAFETY OF WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA

*262. DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo motu cognizance of indecent and gender-insensitive remarks made against women in stand-up comedy and on digital platforms;
- (b) the current status of the proposed amendment bill to include digital and online content within the ambit of the 'Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986';
- (c) the details of the awareness campaigns being run to ensure the dignity, consent and safety of women in entertainment media; and
- (d) whether an inter-ministerial task force has been constituted in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to curb the objectification of women in cyberspace?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 FOR ANSWER ON 12.08.2026 RAISED BY DR.
JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE REGARDING 'SAFETY OF WOMEN IN
ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA'**

(a): The National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, established in January 1992 pursuant to the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The Commission draws its mandate and powers primarily from Section 10 of the Act. It does take suo motu cognizance of indecent, derogatory, and gender-insensitive remarks made against women, including those made in stand-up comedy and on digital platforms, by exercising its powers under Sections 10(1) and 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(b) to (d): The Government of India adopts a whole of government approach to address offences targeting women and children, with concerned Ministries implementing legal, technological, enforcement and victim-support/ rehabilitation interventions within their respective mandates.

In recent years, major legal and institutional reforms have been undertaken to strengthen protection of women and children. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, which came into force on 1 July 2024, contain strengthened provisions relating to offences against women and children, including trafficking, organised crime, gang rape and exploitation. These laws also provide improved procedural safeguards and recognise electronic and digital records as admissible evidence, thereby strengthening prosecution in cyber-crimes.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) undertakes measures relating to law enforcement, investigation and cyber-crime reporting. The Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme has been implemented under the Nirbhaya Fund. A dedicated National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) and Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) are operational to facilitate reporting of cyber offences including those affecting women and children. MHA also undertakes awareness initiatives and capacity building for law enforcement agencies through training programmes and standard operating procedures.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) administers 'The Information Technology Act, 2000' and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which provide a framework for addressing unlawful online content, including punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene or sexually explicit material electronically and empowering law-enforcement agencies to investigate cyber offences.

Further, MeitY has put in place policy and regulatory measures to protect individuals, including women and children, from harms arising from the misuse of personal data in digital spaces through the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 ("Act"). The Act, together with the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 ("Rules"), establishes a comprehensive framework for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such data for lawful purposes. Also, MeitY addresses online gender-based violence such as impersonation, fake profiles, circulation of obscene content, non-consensual intimate imagery and deepfakes through inter-ministerial consultations, advisories and victim-support mechanisms.

Under the Mission Shakti scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development a holistic and victim-centric approach is adopted to strengthen safety, security and empowerment of women, including protection against technology-facilitated crimes. Key initiatives includes One Stop Centre Scheme, operational since 2015 to provide integrated services such as medical aid, legal assistance, temporary shelter, police facilitation and psycho-social counselling; Women Help Desks set up in police stations, Women Helpline-181 and ERSS-112 providing emergency and support services and Safe City Projects implemented in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai for improving safety in public spaces.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also undertaken sustained awareness and advocacy initiatives to promote the dignity, equality, consent and safety of women, including in the media and entertainment ecosystem. The Commission addresses these issues through various programmes viz. PAN India Legal Awareness Programmes, Capacity Building and Personality Development Programmes, Nirbhaya Bharat-Sashakt Naari (AKAM). Gender Sanitization programmes for KVS Staff & Students, Forensic Training (Police Officers), Judicial Officers etc., Legal Awareness Camps, Ignite Lecture Series, Posh Training for LCs, Shakti Samwad (SWCs.), She Serves, Campus Calling, Yashoda 'AI' Literacy Program, etc.

The Government remains committed to strengthening and further enhancing coordination among stakeholders to safeguard the dignity, privacy and security of women and children in digital spaces.

In light of the above, rather than introducing overlapping provisions, priority is accorded to the effective implementation of the existing legal and regulatory framework to ensure the smooth functioning of the ecosystem.
