

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1496
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 31.07.2026

REGULATION OF VIEWING OF PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT IN PUBLIC PLACE

1496. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures to discourage or regulate the viewing of pornographic content in public places, particularly in the presence of minors;
- (b) whether Government is considering framing a national policy to address the public viewing of pornographic content and strengthen safeguards for children;
- (c) the year-wise and State/UT-wise details of cases registered relating to online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and other relevant laws during the last five years; and
- (d) the awareness, technological and enforcement measures being undertaken to prevent online circulation of CSAM and public display of obscene content?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d): The Government has adopted a series of measures to ensure an Open, Safe, Trusted and Accountable Internet and to protect children from exposure to inappropriate content. The existing legal framework provides comprehensive safeguards through:

The Information Technology Act, 2000: Sections 67, 67A and 67B punish publishing/transmitting obscene, sexually explicit and child sexual material in electronic form (Section 67B carries imprisonment up to five years and fine up to ten lakh rupees on first conviction, and up to seven years on subsequent conviction).

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023: Sections 294, 295 and 296 punish sale, distribution, exhibition and circulation of obscene material, including in electronic form and to children.

The POCSO Act, 2012: Sections 11, 12, 14 and 15 penalise showing objects to children for pornographic purposes, using children for pornography, and possessing/storing such material.

The IT Rules, 2021 impose due diligence obligations on intermediaries to prevent hosting of content harmful to children, obscene or pornographic material, with strict removal timelines (three hours for court/government orders; two hours for nudity/morphed content).

Part-III mandates OTT platforms to undertake age-based self-classification and safeguards against age-inappropriate content. Recent amendments also address AI-generated content,

deepfakes, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and non-consensual intimate imagery. Given this comprehensive framework, dedicated measures already exist to regulate obscene content and protect minors.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes. The National Crime Records Bureau compiles and publishes State/UT-wise and year-wise crime statistics in its publication "Crime in India," which may be accessed at <https://www.ncrb.gov.in>.

Enforcement measures include disabling 50 OTT platforms over the last two years for obscene content violating the IT Act, BNS and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMIs) are mandated to deploy automated tools to proactively identify content depicting rape, child sexual abuse or previously removed material. Advisories (dated 29.12.2025 and 16.03.2026) and a Standard Operating Procedure on Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (released 11.11.2025) have been issued. Awareness efforts under the ISEA project have conducted 6,650 workshops covering over 11.37 lakh+ participants, with multilingual material disseminated through www.isea.gov.in and staysafeonline.in. CERT-In regularly issues guidelines on AI-related threats and deepfakes and shares online safety measures for children.
