

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1824
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

VIOLATION OF LAWS BY MEDIA ORGANISATIONS

**1824. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the recent past some of the Media Organisations/Houses have violated the rape-laws by disclosing the identity of the rape victims/survivors and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) has limited power to take any stringent action or initiate criminal prosecution, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against the Media Organisations/Houses or the Reporters/Journalists for having violated the rape laws and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to prohibit such Reporters/Journalists and the Media Organisations/Houses for violating rape-laws by amending the present laws; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): Complaints in respect of content in print media which are violative of the prescribed ethical norms of journalism, public taste or professional conduct are adjudicated by the Press Council of India (PCI) in exercise of its powers vested under section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978. As per section 14 of the Act read with Press Council (Procedure of Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be.

(c) to (e): Adjudication rendered by Press Council of India during last 3 years in respect of Print media is as per the details enclosed at **Annexure I**. Details of action taken by this Ministry in respect of Electronic media regarding disclosure of identity of rape victims/sexually assaulted victims during the last three years and the current years are enclosed as **Annexure II**.

Annexure referred to in reply to the part (c) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1824 due for reply on 20.12.2018 asked by Shri Pinaki Misra and Shri Asaduddin Owaisi regarding "Violation of Laws by Media Organisation".

1. Complaint of Ms. X (Name withheld to protect identity), Chandigarh against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Chandigarh wherein her name as a rape victim was disclosed. the Council Censured the respondent editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Chandigarh.

2. Complaint of Member, NCPCR against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Bhopal for disclosing the name of a minor boy (victim of sexual abuse). The Council Censured the respondent, Dainik Bhaskar, Bhopal.

3. The Council took suo-motu action in Kathua rape case and issued Show Cause Notices to the respondents but the Hon'ble High Court in its order dated 18.5.2018 "pending further orders in the present writ petition and pending consideration of the responses to the notices to show cause issued by this Court, there shall be stay of proceedings initiated by the Press Council of India against the respondents, premised on the cognizance by this court". The proceedings in the matter was dropped in view of Hon'ble Court order.

Annexure referred to in reply to the part (c) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1824 due for answer on 20.12.2018 asked by Shri Pinaki Misra and Shri Asaduddin Owaisi regarding "Violation of Laws by Media Organisation".Details of action taken by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding disclosure of identity of rape victims/sexually assaulted victims during the last three years and the current yearYear – 2015

S.No.	Name of the Channel	Details of content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
1.	A2Z News TV	The Channel telecast news reports on various date and revealed the identity of sexually assaulted minor victims.	A warning dated 07.08.2015 was issued to the channel.

Year- 2016

S.No.	Name of the Channel	Details of content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
1.	MBC TV	Telecast of news report revealing the identity of sexually assaulted victims.	A warning dated 29.11.2016 issued to the channel

Year - 2018

S.No.	Name of the Channel	Details of Content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
1.	All private satellite TV channels	<p>The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matters of Miscellaneous Application No.2069 of 2018 in WP (C) No. 473 of 2005 filed by Sampurna Behura Vs UOI & Ors. in the issue of recent alleged rape and abuse of children in the Government funded Children's Home run by the NGO called Sewa Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti passed an order dated 2.8.2018 giving following directions:</p> <p>"In the interest of the minor girls, we restrain the Electronic Media from telecasting or broadcasting the images of the girl even in a morphed or blurred form. We request the media not to interview the minor girls. This</p>	A letter dated 3.8.2018 was issued to private satellite TV channels to ensure strict compliance with the said order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

		request is being made in the interest of minor girls. News of the events may, of course, be disseminated but the interests of the minor girls should be kept in mind.”	
2.	All private satellite TV channels	The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in the matters of Miscellaneous Application No.2069 of 2018 in WP (C) No. 473 of 2005 filed by Sampurna Behura Vs UOI & Ors. in the issue of recent alleged rape and abuse of children in the Government funded Children’s Home run by the NGO called Sewa Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti passed an order dated 7.8.2018 giving following directions: <i>“We expect the electronic, print and social media to ensure that the photographs of the victims of sexual abuse anywhere should not be displayed either in morphed or blurred form for the safety, mental and physical health of the victims and in public interest.”</i>	A letter dated 31.8.2018 was issued to private satellite TV channels to ensure strict compliance with the said order passed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India.