

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3707

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002

NUDE AND OBSCENE PHOTO OF WOMEN IN NEWSPAPERS

CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that nude and obscene photo of women are shown in the several newspapers;
- (b) if so, whether showing nude photo of women are also a part of news;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures adopted by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d): Press Council of India, a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country, has formulated guidelines viz., the Norms for Journalistic Conduct according to which newspapers/journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste. The Press Council receives complaints against the newspapers publishing obscene photographs of women and also initiates suo-motu inquiry against the erring newspapers, advising them to refrain from publishing such photographs which can attract punishment under various laws, e.g., the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, etc.