

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1018

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007

AMENDMENT IN INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN PROHIBITION ACT,1986

Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there has been an increase of provocative advertisements by indecent presentation of women;
- (b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women has recommended amendments in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the action so far taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the violation of the Act?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per the data relating to crime against women maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the following number of cases have been reported in the country under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 during the year 2003 to 2005 :

Year	No. of cases reported
2003	1043
2004	1378
2005	2917

(b),(c)&(d) The proposal to amend the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 on the basis of recommendations made by the National Commission for Women

(NCW) is under the consideration of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The proposal includes amendments in the definition of the terms 'indecent representation of women' and 'advertisement' and to increase the penalty for offences under the Act.

(e) Section 3 of the Indecent Representation of Women

(Prohibition) Act, 1986 prohibits advertisements containing indecent representation of women. In terms of Section (6) of the Act, contravention of the provisions of section 3 of the Act shall be punishable with imprisonment and fine. Section 5 of the Act empowers State Governments to authorize Gazetted Officers, inter-alia, to carry out search and seize documents containing indecent representation of women.

'Public order' and 'police' are State subjects and as such prevention, detection and investigation etc. of cases relating to atrocities against women, including violation of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take necessary measures to prevent crimes against women and other weaker sections of the society.