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Parl panel seeks Twitter reply over 'obscene' posts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A parliamentary committee has questioned Twitter over the recent "obscene" posts by stand-up comedian **Kunal Kamra** criticising the Supreme Court and its judges, including Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, the committee's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Thursday.

The panel has asked Twitter to respond through an affidavit within a week clarifying its stand on this, Lekhi said.

Replying to one of Kamra's tweets on the CJI, Lekhi had tweeted, "Obscene, no indemnity for such publications." She said it was shameful and degrading that Twitter was being misused for "obscene" remarks by Kamra on constitutional authorities like the apex court and CJI.

"We showed the Twitter representative the tweet and reported that it was obscene. We asked them whether Twitter is a publisher or a disseminator of information?" said Lekhi. "In connection with this case, we raised our concern on the fairness of algorithms, and why certain tweets are being promoted."

Lekhi said members of the Joint Committee on Data Protection Bill, across the political spectrum, including Congress MP Vivek Tankha, BSP's Ritesh Pandey and BJD MP

Bhatruhari Mahtab, grilled the Twitter representatives on the issue.

The explanation of Twitter about banning handles/tweets was found to be inadequate, she added.

Kamra remained defiant. Sharing a screenshot of the news, he tweeted, "Personal liberty is like Promotions in corporate India only those who don't have jokes on the boss get it." Earlier, he had refused to apologise for his tweets on the SC after the attorney general gave permission for initiating contempt of court proceedings against him for his tweets.

