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## Cabinet nod for raising gestation period for abortion to 24 weeks

Enhanced limit will apply to vulnerable women

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

The Bill will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament.

According to a release, the proposed amendment seeks to enhance the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women that will be defined in the amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules and will include "vulnerable women including survivors of rape, victims of incest" and others



Details of a woman whose pregnancy has been ended shall not be revealed.

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like differently abled women and minors.

Also, the upper gestation limit will not apply to cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by the Medical Board.

"Name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed except to a person authorised in any law for the time being in force," the release said.

### Safe and legal

"The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds," it said.

"The proposed increase in gestational age will ensure dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and justice for women who need to terminate pregnancy," the release added.