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Lok Sabha passes Bill for death for rape of minors

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The Lok Sabha on Thursday unanimously passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children.

Responding to the debate on the Bill, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said the Bill aimed to make offences against children gender-neutral.

"This Bill is not related with vote-bank politics but to save the future of India.

The government's priority is to ensure that justice is delivered to every child in the country," the Minister said.

The Bill, already approved in the Rajya Sabha, defines child pornography and makes it punishable.

Ms. Irani said over 1,000 fast-track courts would work for the speedy disposal of pending cases. The Bill provides that those who use a child for pornographic purposes should be punished with imprisonment up to five years and a fine, and for a subsequent conviction, it would be up to seven years and fine.