

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2630  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018)**

**FREEDOM OF PRESS IN INDIA**

**2630. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:**

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether as per the recent report of Transparency International, India is among the worst offenders of Freedom of press in Asia Pacific in 2017;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to restore Freedom of Press in India ?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

(a) & (b): The Government has come across media reports carrying the results of a survey conducted by 'Transparency International', a Berlin based NGO on Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2017. A number of reports are available on internet covering aspects like freedom of speech, transparency and censorship on internet. Different methodology, data and techniques for data collection are followed for preparing the reports. The sources of data collection are not disclosed.

(c): In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, the Government of India does not interfere in the functioning of newspaper industry. The Government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under the Article 19 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, there is no pre-censorship in press in India. Further, to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. In order to inculcate principles of self-regulation amongst the press, the Council under section 13(2) of the Press Council Act, 1978, has framed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. These norms cover principles and ethics of journalism and also the guidelines for news reporting.

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