GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1512
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

SUDDEN REMOVAL OF A NEWS ITEM FROM MAJOR NEWS PUBLICATIONS

1512 SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the CEO of Niti Aayog, claimed in an interview that reforms are difficult in India because of 'too much democracy' in the country;
b) whether it is also a fact that reports on this were suddenly removed from all major news publications;
c) if so, whether this move was a part of any directive from the Ministry to these publications to censor this news item;
d) if so, whether Government has agreed with the comment made by him; and
e) if not, what action has been taken against the CEO for his statement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e): NITI Aayog has informed that CEO, NITI Aayog in a specific article published on December 11, 2020 has written that his response to a question had been deliberately misquoted and distorted. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere in functioning of the Press.