GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.544
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

544. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's rank on the World Press Freedom Index has fallen from 142 in 2020 to 150 in 2021;
(b) if so, the reason for declining press freedom in the country;
(c) the number of journalists/media personnel who have been arrested during the last 5 years, year-wise;
(d) the number of journalists/media personnel killed during the last five years, year-wise; and
(e) the reasons why National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The World Press Freedom Index is published by a foreign Non-Government-Organization, "Reporters Without Borders". The Government does not subscribe to its views and country rankings and

does not agree to the conclusions drawn by this organisation for various reasons including very low sample size, little or no weightage to fundamentals of democracy, adoption of a methodology which is questionable and non-transparent, etc.

(c) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data separately for Journalists/ media personnel.

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