THREATS TO JOURNALISTS IN J&K

70. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of journalists who have received militant threats working for local Srinagar based newspapers in recent past;

(b) the number of media persons who posted their resignation on social media to avoid any trouble from militant threats;

(c) the media persons who resigned belong to how many newspapers and TV Channels and whether any case has been registered against handlers, active terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its offshoot The Resistance Front (TRF); and

(d) what other action Government has taken to thwart such threats in future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (c) As reported, eight (8) journalists working for Srinagar based local newspapers received threat through terror blog “Kashmir Fight”. Four (4) media persons have reportedly resigned. The media persons who resigned belong to the media house “Rising Kashmir”. In this regard a case has been registered in Shergari Police Station, Srinagar.
(d) The Government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government has taken several steps to protect the lives of people including media persons from terrorist threat/attacks as under:

(i) Proactive security arrangements wherein security grid which includes Police, Army, CAPF and intelligence agencies remain deployed across Jammu and Kashmir to thwart any threat/attempt at the hands of terrorists or their handlers.

(ii) Proactive operations to seek and arrest/neutralize the terrorists and put them on the run.

(iii) Proactive steps wherein Police/other security agencies are providing reasonable level of security to protect lives of the media persons.