

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2314
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2023

INCOME-TAX SURVEY ON BBC

2314: SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Income-tax Department visited the premises of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for tax survey recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many prominent personalities, including from Press Club of India, Editors Guild of India criticised this move as it amounts to intimidating the media and putting curbs on the freedom of Press; and
- (d) if so, the response of Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Income Tax Department conducts survey operations based on information regarding tax evasion and/or non-compliance. The authorization for survey action is issued only after the satisfaction of prescribed authority under Income Tax Act, 1961. However, the disclosure of information in respect of specific assesseees is prohibited except as provided under section 138 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
