

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023**

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

***197. MS. DOLA SEN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy framework or implemented guidelines to ensure the safety of journalists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has planned/ is planning to introduce any amendments to the existing policies in context of emerging challenges, such as, online harassment and digital threats, faced by journalists; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *197 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023 ON POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

(a) to (d) '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.

Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all citizens of the country, including journalists. The existing laws for protection of citizens also cover journalists.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued specific advisories to States and UTs on safety of journalists from time to time. Advisory on safety of journalist has been issued on 20th October, 2017 requesting the State Governments to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of media persons, which is available on the website www.mha.gov.in

Further, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, with an objective to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country, also has a complaint mechanism under the Press Council Act, 1978 to address complaints received from journalists, editors, newspapers, etc against organizations/authorities for interference with free functioning of press, including any physical attack or assault on journalist. PCI also takes suo-motu cognizance and registers cases where prima facie grave violation of the press freedom or severe breach of journalistic conduct is observed.
