

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

FUNCTIONING OF PIB KOLKATA

*121. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) the current number of permanent and contractual employees working at Press Information Bureau (PIB), Kolkata;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in the availability of press releases in Bengali at PIB, Kolkata, and the steps being taken to ensure timely dissemination of information in the regional language;
- (c) whether PIB Kolkata is planning to set up a dedicated fact-checking unit to combat the spread of fake news in West Bengal; and
- (d) the initiatives being undertaken by PIB Kolkata to enhance its outreach and engagement with the local media and the public in West Bengal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(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. *121 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024 ON FUNCTIONING OF PIB KOLKATA

(a): The Press Information Bureau (PIB) under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has its headquarter at New Delhi and has 5 zones comprising 19 regional offices in various states. Regional office at Kolkata comes under East Zone and at present has 18 permanent employees and 1 contractual employee.

(b): The Press Releases, which are issued by the PIB, Headquarter, are released in Bengali language by PIB Kolkata after translation of the same. Press Releases in regional language are shared with media and uploaded on the website immediately for timely dissemination.

(c): A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 to counter fake news relating to the Central Government. After verifying the authenticity of news from authorised sources in Ministries/ Departments, FCU posts correct information on its social media platforms.

(d): The content on developmental and welfare activities of Government, as received from PIB Headquarters, are shared through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter to enhance PIB's outreach with media and local people. Press Releases, Photos, Graphics, etc. are also regularly shared on social media. Media workshop 'Vartalap' is being organised on regular basis for creating awareness for media about different Government programmes.
