

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2172
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PERSONNEL

2172 SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been various incidents of increased attack or threats on journalists and media personnel in the country in the last five years;
- (b) if not, whether Government has any data on such incidents that have occurred in various parts of the country in the last five years;
- (c) the details of such attacks against journalists in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) the measure taken by Government to ensure the safety, security of journalists and media personnel in the country?

ANSWER

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

(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.

Government of India 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. However, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data separately for Journalists/ media personnel.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to States and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order and ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is prosecuted under appropriate laws.

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 grave violation of the press freedom or severe breach of journalistic conduct is observed prima facie.
