

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1535
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026)

SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

1535. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of concerns regarding the safety of journalists, functioning of independent media organisations and issues relating to press freedom in the country;
- (b) the details of complaints received regarding alleged threats, intimidation or legal action against journalists and media organisations during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any assessment regarding India's positions in international press freedom indices and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the safeguards in place to protect journalist and ensure editorial independence; and
- (e) the measures taken to promote a free, fair and responsible media environment?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Dr. L. MURUGAN)**

(a) to (e): The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority under an Act of Parliament, Press Council Act, 1978 with the two fold objects of preserving the freedom of the press by maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India.

The Press Council of India registers and adjudicates complaints pertaining to curtailment of press freedom, including complaints relating to attacks on or threats to journalists, through its complaint redressal mechanism under the Act and Regulations made thereunder. Further, the

Chairperson of the Press Council of India is empowered to take suo-motu cognizance of matters where a prima facie violation of press freedom is observed.

During the last three years (2023-24 to 2025-26), the Press Council of India has received 60 complaints regarding alleged threats, intimidation or legal action against journalists and media organisations.

India has a vibrant and diverse media ecosystem comprising about 81,658 registered printed periodicals, including 7,414 titles registered during 2025-26, more than 900 permitted satellite television channels.
