

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1941**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 10, 1945 (SAKA)

SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

1941. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government is making a draft regarding the standard operating procedures for the safety and security of journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the incidents of attacks on journalists/media persons have increased in recent times;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Government has directed the States to take all preventive and deterrent action as deemed required; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (e): The existing laws for protection of citizens also cover journalists. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to 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. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain specific data

with respect to attacks on journalists. Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all residents of the country, including journalists/media persons.

Central Government is in the process of finalising a standard operating procedure in this regard, in consultation with various agencies/stakeholders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to States and Union Territories, from time to time, to maintain law and order and ensure that that any person who takes law into his/her own hands is punished promptly as per law. An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to States/UTs on 20th October 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure safety and security of media persons. These advisories are available on the Ministry's website: www.mha.gov.in
