

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 816  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25-07-2023**

**ATTACK ON MEDIA PERSONS**

**816: SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has observed the large scale attacks on media persons are reported in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is of the view that attack on media freedom by the Government agencies violates the fundamental right of expression and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to contain the spread of false news in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has data regarding the number of media companies that have shut operations since 2019 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps and measures that are being taken by the Government to ensure freedom of press and safety and welfare of journalists in India?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b) '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. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data separately for Journalists/ media personnel.**

**Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all citizens of the country including journalists. 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 punished as per law.**

**(c) A Fact Check Unit has been set up under Press Information Bureau under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 which takes cognizance of fake news relating to the Central Government both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and social media. The Unit responds to the relevant queries with correct and updated information related to the policies, schemes, guidelines, initiatives, etc of the Government of India.**

**(d) The Government does not separately maintain data on operationalisation of private media organizations.**

**(e) In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of the press. Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 mainly to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. PCI is also empowered to take *suo-motu* cognizance in matters on the pressing issues concerning freedom of Press and safeguarding of its high standards. This Ministry also implements Journalist Welfare Scheme to provide financial assistance to journalists or their families under extreme hardship on account of death, permanent disability, treatment for major ailments and accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization.**