

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1383  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2023**

**PRESS FREEDOM**

**1383. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:**

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

- (a) whether there has been a decline in Press Freedom in the country since 2014 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of journalists arrested in the country since 2014;
- (c) the details and the number of incidents wherein journalists were killed in the country since 2014;
- (d) the details and the number of digital data search, seizures and raids conducted against journalist by the Government since 2014;
- (e) whether the Government is taking steps to improve Press Freedom in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a): Freedom of speech and expression is enshrined under Article 19 of the Constitution. It is the endeavour of the Government to uphold and preserve press freedom. While there are reports by some NGOs indicating a lowering in India's ranking on press freedom, the Government does not subscribe to such reports as they are based on low sample size, inadequate recognition of India's democratic values, non-transparency, etc.

(b) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution 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.

(e) & (f): The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory body, constituted under the Press Council Act, 1978 aims to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of newspapers, etc. It also, under the statute, conducts enquiries into complaints concerning curtailment of press freedom, attack on journalists etc.

Similarly for news on TV and digital media, the Government has recognized a regime of self-regulation by these entities promoting press freedom.

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