

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2670
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023

JOURNALIST WELFARE SCHEME

2670. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

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

- (a) the main objectives of the Journalist Welfare Scheme being run by the Government;
- (b) whether the Government has issued revised guidelines for Journalists Welfare Scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial assistance and employment related assistance provided under this scheme during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has appointed Journalist Welfare Scheme Committee and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the said committee has recommended to provide financial relief to the families of journalists who have lost their lives; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The main objective of Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) is to provide one time ex-gratia relief to journalists and their families on account of extreme hardship on account of death, permanent disability, treatment for major ailments and accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. Journalist accredited by Press Information Bureau (PIB) and States/UTs as well as non-accredited journalists are covered under this Scheme. The Guidelines for Journalists Welfare Scheme dated 01.04.2023 is available on the website of this Ministry at <https://mib.gov.in>.

(c) to (f): Under the Journalist Welfare Scheme there is a Committee chaired by Secretary (I&B) and with Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau, Joint Secretary in the Ministry and six representatives from private media organizations as members. The Committee gives its recommendations which makes recommendations for providing financial assistance to the journalists and their families. The Committee was last reconstituted on 22.03.2023.

The details of the financial assistance disbursed under the Scheme during last 3 years and current year are as under:

Year	No. of cases	Amount of financial assistance disbursed (in Rs. lakhs)
2020-21	56	260.00
2021-22	134	647.63
2022-23	45	199.94
2023-24 (till Nov. 2023)	39	165.77
