

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2021

ASSASSINATION OF INDIAN MEDIA PERSONS ABROAD

2124. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian media persons/journalists assassinated in foreign countries especially in Afghanistan in last five years and the current year, year-wise and country-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure freedom and safety of journalists in foreign countries?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) As per information available with Indian Missions/Posts abroad, one Indian media person/journalist was assassinated in a foreign country in the last five years. An Indian photojournalist on a Reuters' assignment in Afghanistan was killed on 15 July 2021 while he was travelling with the Afghan National Security Forces in Kandahar to cover a military operation.

(b) to (d) Ministry takes up the issue of providing safety and protection to all Indian nationals, including media persons/journalists, with the concerned foreign countries. Government also issues advisories regarding the security situation in different parts of the world from time to time to apprise Indian nationals including media persons/journalist. Particularly, in view of the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, the Indian Mission in Kabul had issued five security advisories, since April 2021, briefing them about the precautions and security measures to be adopted during their stay and local movements in Afghanistan and advising Indians to leave Afghanistan.
