

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3169  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022**

**WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX**

**3169. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India was ranked 142 out of 180 countries listed in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters without Borders in 2021, dropping two spots from 2020 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any measures have been taken by the Government to identify the reasons for the same and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to protect the safety and freedom of journalists?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b) The World Press Freedom Index is published by a foreign Non-Government-Organization, “Reporters Without Borders”. The Government does not subscribe to its views and country rankings and does not agree to the conclusions drawn by this organisation for various reasons including very low sample size, little or no weightage to fundamentals of democracy, adoption of a methodology which is questionable and non-transparent, lack of clear definition of press freedom etc.**

**(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies.**

**Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of every citizen of the country including journalists. An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to States/ UTs on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of media persons, which is available on the website [www.mha.gov.in](http://www.mha.gov.in).**

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