GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5394 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022

INCREASING CASES OF MEDIA TRIALS
5394. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that tendency of media trial of cases/incidents is increasing day by day in Indian Media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Press Council of India has expressed grave concern over the media trials and sensitization of news and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of regulatory mechanism to put a check on such programmes; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government to restrict/ban such programmes?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Press Council of India (PCI) has framed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. This has a separate section on 'Trial by Media' wherein the Press Council has elaborated the role and responsibility of media.

Private TV channels are required to adhere to the Program Code laid down under the Cable Television Network (Regulations) Act. 1995.

Appropriate action is taken in the cases where violation of the Norms, Codes, etc., is found. The Government also issues advisory from time to time to the media to adhere to the laid down Norms, Codes, etc.

Hon'ble Bombay High Court vide their Order dated 18.01.2021 in the matter of PIL (ST) No.92252 of 2020 and connected matter relating to reporting of Sushant Singh case by media, has issued directions with regard to the media coverage of cases under enquiry/investigation, etc. which have been conveyed by the Ministry to the broadcasters for compliance vide communication dated 05.03.2021.
