

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1502
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024**

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT

1502. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives in the realm of improving the perception of India in dealing with independent media rights and the steps taken to the same effect;
- b) whether it is a fact that Foreign Contribution Regulation Act is being used to raid offices of journalists; and
- c) any evaluation of the imposition of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act to raid offices of journalists and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

(a) to (c) The Government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under the Article 19 of the Constitution of India. Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 has been enacted to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Any action taken under the provisions of the Act are for meeting these objectives.
