

**QUESTION DETAILS**

MINISTRY OF : HOME AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3567

TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2019

Attacks on journalists

3567. Shri G.C. Chandrashekar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether incidents of attacks on journalists have been rising in the country;
- (b) whether India has been lowered by two ranks to 140 in the World Press Freedom Index, 2019, compiled by Reporters without Borders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the past three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether Press Council of India has constituted any committee to study increasing incidents of attacks on journalists;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the findings/recommendations of the Committee along with the action taken thereon; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government to ensure freedom of press in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not publish data on incidents of attacks in respect of separate categories of professionals.

(b) & (c): The Government has come across media reports carrying the result of survey 'World Press Freedom Index 2019' by 'Reporters without

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Borders'. However, Press Council of India (PCI) has expressed its concern about the authenticity and credibility of the reports, the basis on which the ranking is done, as also the methodology used to rank the nations.

(d) & (e): As informed by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the Press Council of India had constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the issue of Safety of Journalists. The Committee submitted its report on 23.04.2015 and made recommendations with regard to safety and security of Journalists. The Ministry of Home Affairs examined the said report and the existing laws are considered adequate to deal with such offences.

(f): In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of media. The Government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under the Article 19 to the Constitution of India. Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards.

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