

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *156
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

***156. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant of the world press freedom index report by 'Reporters Without Borders' which ranks India at 138 and if so; the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) has conducted any study to find out the reasons for the deteriorating press freedom index and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of journalists, who have been attacked and murdered during the period of 2014-18?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.156 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2018 ON
WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX**

(a) & (b): The Government has come across media reports carrying the results of survey 'World Press Freedom Index 2018' by 'Reporters Without Borders' (RWB).

Press Council of India (PCI) has raised its concern about the authenticity and credibility of the reports and the basis on which the ranking is done and also the methodology used to rank the nations. PCI in this regard has been communicating with the South Asian Office of the organization several times to learn about their methodology to arrive at the ranking and had expressed its willingness to share how Press Council of India is working to preserve the freedom of press. No response was received from "Reporters Without Borders". However, PCI has at UNESCO conference in Jakarta Indonesia in May, 2017 stated that the RWB report does not present all sides of the matter and most importantly when India does have an autonomous body for the protection and preservation of freedom of press, then at least Reporters Without Borders should have consulted such an organization as part of good research. The PCI has prepared a report on 'Safety of Journalists' and 'Report to examine the killing of Shahjahapur based journalist Shri Jagendra Singh'.

(c) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has not published data on attacks in respect of separate categories of professionals, including journalists. However, information is being compiled.
