

Global press freedom

2365. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Global press freedom has fallen to its lowest level in over a decade, with India ranking 78th and belonging to countries with particularly free media, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to allow more freedom for the press, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any study on global press freedom including freedom of press in India. However, the Government has come across reports carrying the survey of 'World Press Freedom Index, 2014' compiled by the body 'Reporters Without Borders'. A number of reports are available on internet covering aspects like freedom of speech, transparency and censorship on internet. Different methodology, data and techniques for data collection are followed for preparing the reports. The sources of data collection are not disclosed.

The Government is committed to ensuring the right to freedom of speech andn expression guaranteed under the Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

Imposing restrictions on Multi System Operators

2366. SHRI R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telecom Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its report on the issue of need for imposing restrictions on Multi System Operators (MSOs)/Local Cable Operators (LCOs) to prevent monopolies accumulation of interest; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government pursuant to the recommendations submitted by TRAI and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on "Monopoly/Market Dominance in Cable TV Services" on 26th November, 2013 to this Ministry. These recommendations are available on the TRAI website at www.trai.gov.in. TRAI recommendations are being examined by the Ministry as per extant guidelines.