

EMMC project

2791. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Ministries, Commissions and other constitutional institutions benefited by the services of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) project, of the Ministry;

(b) the proposed tenure of EMMC project;

(c) the steps taken/being taken to ensure social security and welfare of the contractual employees of EMMC by Government; and

(d) whether 'Same Pay for Same Work' norms are being followed in the EMMC for the contractual employees, as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) established in 2008 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, monitors compliance by the television channels to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Since General Elections 2014, EMMC has been sending Election Management Monitoring Report etc., on polling days to Election Commission of India (ECI).

(b) The 12th Plan Scheme of EMMC has since been extended upto 31.03.2020.

(c) and (d) The contractual staff working in EMMC are recruited and engaged by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a PSU. They are provided social security and other benefits as per laid down norms and are given wages/fees having regard to qualifications and experience.

World press freedom index

2792. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been lowered by two ranks, from 136 to 138 in the World Press Freedom Index, 2018, compiled by 'Reporters without Borders';

(b) the number of cases that have been reported during the last three years about the attack on journalists, data of the cases, State-wise;

(c) the details of measures adopted by Government to ensure the security, safety and freedom of journalists; and

(d) whether Government has any policy currently to address the problems of workplace harassment, insecurity of jobs, disparity in pay faced by journalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) The Government has come across media reports carrying the results of survey 'World Press Freedom Index 2018' by 'Reporters Without Borders' (RWB). However, Methodology and Sources of data collection are not disclosed.

(b) 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.

(c) According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the Seventh Schedule (List II) to the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies. MHA have issued advisories to the States and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order, which are available in the Ministry of Home Affairs' website viz., https://mha.gov.in/sites/upload_fdes/mha/fdes/Advisafety_20-10-2017_24102017.pdf. An advisory on safety of journalist has been issued to States/UTs on 20th October 2017. Central Government attaches highest importance to the safety and security to every citizen of the country including journalists. The existing laws for protection of citizens also cover journalists. The Press Council of India also takes appropriate action on receipt of specific complaints from affected journalists.

(d) Wage Boards are constituted under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, administered by M/o Labour and Employment, for the purpose of fixing or revising the rates of wages in respect of journalists and non-journalist newspaper employees of print media.

Setting up DDKs in Maharashtra

2793. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras (DDKs) presently functioning in the State of Maharashtra, location-wise;