

(b) As reported by Delhi Police, no such illegal activities have come to notice which can be said to be mushrooming in the area at the behest of Beat Staff and SHO/Rajouri Garden.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Delhi Police has reported that Senior Police Officials interact with the public from time to time and regularly visit the area. A total of 14 meetings with public have been conducted by SHO/Rajouri Garden in this area during the last three years and current year (upto 30.06.2019).

#### **World Press Freedom Index**

2758. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is ranked 140 in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government in the past to ensure safety and security of press and other media persons; and

(c) the number of attacks on journalists reported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): (a) The Government has come across media reports carrying the result of survey 'World Press Freedom Index, 2019' by 'Reporters without Borders'. However, Press Council of India (PCI) has raised 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.

(b) 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. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of 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. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to the States and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order and to ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hands is punished promptly as per law. An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to States/UTs on 20th October, 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure

the safety and security of media persons, which is available on the Ministry's website [www.mha.gov.in](http://www.mha.gov.in).

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

#### **Protection and safety of Amarnath Yatra**

2759. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been violent incidents on Amarnath Yatra in the past;

(b) whether Government is taking adequate steps for protection and safety of Amarnath Yatra and prevent such mishappenings again; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir makes all necessary arrangements for the safe and smooth conduct of yatra.

Government of India provides necessary support to the State Government including deployment of sufficient number of CAPF Coys, deployment of mountain rescue teams, NDRF and SDRF teams on strategic locations, upgradation of tracks and fixing railings along the critical stretches of the tracks, installation of Automatic Weather Stations, etc.

State Government has introduced various steps such as QR-Coding/Bar-coding of Yatra Permit Forms at Access Control Gates and selective camps to track the movement of yatris in the yatra area including necessary arrangements for water supply, food grains, langar facilities at various places in the yatra area.

#### **Metro Rail Projects for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada**

2760. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has given its approval for Bhopal and Indore Metro Rail Projects recently and the Union Cabinet has also decided to provide ₹7,000 crore for above metros;