

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021**

DEATH OF MEDIA PERSONS

2144 SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY :

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

- a) whether Government has taken serious note of the COVID-19 related death of persons employed in TV and Print Media in the country;
- b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of deaths;
- c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect the life and interest of the media persons doing their job amidst the COVID-19 crisis and Governments' further stand and decision in this regard; and
- d) the effective steps taken by Government to create a safe and secured environment for frontline media personnel in the coming months?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE
CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (b): Government has carried out a special drive for financial assistance under the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) of this Ministry in respect of death cases of the Journalists due to COVID-19 and has approved financial assistance of Rs. 5,00,000/- each in 38 such cases.

(c) to (d): Ministry of Home Affairs while issuing consolidated guidelines for containment of COVID-19 Epidemic in the Country, from time to time, kept Print and electronic media under exceptions from closing down directions issued for commercial and pvt. Establishment.

Ministry of Labour and Employment through its advisory dated 20th March, 2020 to all Chief Secretaries of States/UTs and all Employers' Association has advised all the Employers of Public/Private Establishment to extend their coordination by not terminating their employees, particularly casual or contractual workers from job or reduce their wages.

This Ministry has issued advisory on 22nd April, 2020 advising all media persons to take due health related precaution & requesting media houses to take necessary care of their field staff as well as office staff.
