

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 584
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025

SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

584. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE

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

- (a) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) is concerned about the safety of journalists in the country;
- (b) whether the PCI is aware about the recent attack on a journalist in the State of Chattisgarh; and
- (c) whether PCI has come up or will come up with regulations after proper deliberations and discussions with the police force of different States to ensure safety of journalists covering stories throughout the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (c): The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, with an objective to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.

Recently, on 04.01.2025, Chairperson PCI while taking suo motu cognizance under section 13 of the PCI Act, on the suspected murder of Sh. Mukesh Chandrakar, a journalist in Bastar, Chattisgarh, has sought a report from the Government of Chattisgarh.

Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes, including crimes related to attack on journalist, and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies.
