

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO.62  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021**

**RANKING OF INDIA IN 'REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS' ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**62. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India retains its lowly 142nd rank out of 180 countries in the 2021st annual report of 'Reporters Without Borders';
- (b) if so, the steps are being taken by Government to improve India's position in the report's Index; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact the India's ranking has dropped from 133 to 142 since 2016?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND  
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

**(a) to (c) The Government has come across reports carrying the survey of World Press Freedom Index published by 'Reporters Without Borders'. However, the Government does not agree to the conclusions drawn by this organization for various reasons including :-**

**(i) very low sample size,**

**(ii) little or no weightage to fundamentals of democracy,**

- (iii) adoption of a methodology which is questionable and non-transparent,**
- (iv) lack of clear definition of press freedom etc.**

**The Government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 mainly to preserve the freedom of the Press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. PCI considers complaints filed 'by the Press' concerning curtailment of press freedom, physical assault/attack on journalists etc. under Section 13 of the Press Council Act 1978. PCI is also empowered to take *suo-motu* cognizance in matters on the pressing issues concerning freedom of Press and safeguarding of its high standards.**

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