

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4306  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000  
VIOLATION OF PRESS FREEDOM  
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the International Press Freedom Group has charged 13 Commonwealth Countries including India for flouting press freedom;
- (b) if so, the other countries named by the International Press Freedom Group;
- (c) the main charges made against India for violating press freedom; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a) & (b): A Press Release dated 3rd November, 1999 by `Reporters sans Frontiers` (Asia-Pacific Desk) has mentioned that 13 Commonwealth Countries, including India, have flouted Press freedom. Besides India, the other countries named in the said Report are Bangladesh, Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Malaysia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- (c) The main charges made against India relate to the authorities not conducting timely and serious inquiries into the incidents of killings/arrest of journalists.
- (d) As and when ordered, all efforts are made to finalise the inquiries quickly and to take action against the criminals as per law.