

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2360  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013  
REPORT ON FREEDOM OF PRESS  
Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether as per the World Press Freedom Index 2013 compiled by the Reporters Without Borders, India's ranking in the global press freedom index has fallen significantly in the past years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any study of the said report;
- (c) if so, the outcome of the said study; and
- (d) the reasons for censorship of freedom of media and the steps taken to restore the freedom of press/media in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

- (a) The Government has come across media reports carrying the results of survey by 'Reporters Without Borders' and World Press Freedom Index 2013 compiled by the body. A number of reports are available on internet covering aspects like freedom of speech, transparency and censorship on internet. Different methodology, data and techniques for data collection are followed for preparing the reports. The sources of data collection are not disclosed.
- (b) & (c) The Government has not conducted any study of the Report which ranks India on global press freedom.
- (d) The Article 19 of the Constitution provides freedom of speech and expression to the citizens of India. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives of preserving the freedom of press and also to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. So far as private satellite TV channels are concerned, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the contents aired on these channels. However, all channels have to abide by the Programme and Advertising Code stipulated by the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 under the Act. Apart from this, the industry has also set up a self-regulatory mechanism for content regulation. As part of their self-regulatory initiative, the industry has set up Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) and News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider the content related complaints of general entertainment channels and news channels, respectively.