

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4007

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014

SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEME FOR JOURNALISTS

Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay";Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide any insurance/social security protection to journalists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has set up a journalist welfare scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total amount in the Journalists` Welfare Fund as on date; and
- (e) the number and details of journalists and their families benefited from the said fund during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration for extending insurance/ social security protection to journalists in the country.
- (c): The Government of India has an existing Scheme titled `Journalist Welfare Scheme`, which provides for one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis to the family of journalist in event of the death of the journalist or to the journalist in case of permanent disability. The Scheme also provides for financial assistance to cover the cost of treatment of major ailments and in cases of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. A copy of the Scheme is annexed at Annexure-I.
- (d): At present, the expenditure under the Scheme is met through normal annual budgetary allocation. The allocation for the year 2014-15 for the Scheme is Rs.30.00 lakhs.
- (e): The details of the beneficiaries of the Scheme are not maintained, state-wise. However, the details, of the journalists or their families benefited under the Scheme, year-wise are annexed at Annexure-II.