GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS RAJYA SABHA QUESTION NO 520 ANSWERED ON **20.12.2017**

Steps taken for protection of journalists

520 Shri Vivek Gupta

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the State-wise details of the number of cases of violence against journalists and 120 the details of the number of convictions that have taken place in such cases;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to provide protection to journalists, facing work related threats since 2014; and

(c) whether Government is considering setting up of an investigation unit to look into the cases of violence and threats to journalists with special emphasis on the cases of Gauri Lankesh, Dabholkar and Pansare?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): As per the data compiled by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), information regarding State/UT wise cases registered and persons arrested for attack on media persons (under section 325, 326, 326A & 326B IPC) during 2014-2016 is given in the Annexure. No separate data is available on journalists killed in such attacks. NCRB has started maintaining data about attacks on media persons since 2014. Data about convictions in such cases is not available with NCRB.

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(c) : 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is for the concerned State Governments to conduct appropriate inquiry into such matters. However, Central Government attaches highest importance to prevention of crime. An advisory on safety of journalists has been issued to States/UTs on 20th October 2017, which is available at the Ministry of Home Affairs' website viz. www.mha.nic.in.
