

Dissenting opinions in democracy: Indian Experience.

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Anecdotes abound that many MPs speak in hushed tones about how even their own government does not appear to have the time, patience or inclination to hear them.

Into that entered so-called negative news and, on occasions, overblown accounts of the government's not-so-noble intentions and indiscretions of the ruling party's MPs.

The government found itself in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Even now, only a select few ministers interact with the press and, according to several journalists, when faced with uncomfortable questions, the spokespersons resort to denial or deception, or arrogant and summary dismissals of the problem.

Moreover, the rural voice is not necessarily united.

Consider the recent meeting of the prime minister with industry leaders.

People still vividly recall the experience of 2009-12, when even the mildest criticism of North Block invited visitations from either the police or the taxmen — a dark throwback to George Orwell's Ministry of Love and Room 101.

There have been several setbacks that have resulted in the collapse of morale.

If public representatives are unwilling to convey the views of the public, what is the recourse?.