

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1405
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
TITLE CLEARANCE TO NEW NEWSPAPERS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the Registrar of Newspapers for India takes 45 to 60 days instead of prescribed 15 days for providing the 'title clearance' to the new newspapers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the number of cases for wating 'title clearance' pending at present; and
- (d) the steps taken to clear the 'title clearance' cases within the prescribed time limit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI)

(a) & (b) : In the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (The PRB Act, 1867), no specific time limit has been prescribed for title clearance. However, due to backlog, it takes about 45 days for title clearance. The backlog is due to huge increase in the number of applications received and acute shortage of manpower.

(c) & (d) : As on 16.02.2006, about 2894 applications are pending for title clearance. Streamlining the Computer System for speedy disposal of title clearance has been taken up and staff members have been directed to put in extra hours to clear the backlog.