

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:214

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

PAID NEWS

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

- (a) whether the Committee constituted by the Press Council of India (PCI) to look into the issue of Paid News has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the major findings and recommendations made in the said report;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated consultations with the Press Council of India (PCI), the Election Commission and the other stake holders in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to implement such recommendations of the Committee?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Press Council of India (PCI) constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the issue of `Paid News` and to collect evidence from stakeholders including Election Commission of India.

(b) The PCI, drawing upon the information and findings of the Sub-Committee`s report has released its `Report on Paid News` on 30th July 2010. The major recommendations made in the Report are given below:-

# Representation of the People Act, 1951, be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice.

# The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of `paid news` and give final judgment in the matter.

# Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview, and

# Press Council of India should be reconstituted to include representatives from electronic and other media.

(c) & (d): The recommendations of the Report are under consideration.