

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3266  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010  
PENAL POWERS TO PCI  
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to delegate more penal powers to the Press Council of India (PCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of proposals received from PCI so far in this regard and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has solicited views from the experts in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e):

The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body, was set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India and for inculcating the principles of self regulation among the press.

PCI has proposed amendment in the Press Council Act, 1978 to arm the Press Council with more powers for effective implementation of its directives. The Government is in regular consultation with the PCI to firm up its view in the matter. The amendments to the Act, if considered necessary, would be drafted carefully after wide consultation with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.