

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:349

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

PAID NEWS

Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Pakirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to equip the Press Council of India (PCI) with necessary powers to contain the menace of paid news in view of suggestions received from PCI;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of representations received by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Government to examine the said issue has submitted its reports to the Government;
- (e) if so, the finding thereof; and
- (f) if not, the time by which the GoM is likely to submit its report to the Government?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Reports and complaints have been received from time to time regarding paid news in sections of the print and electronic media. The Press Council of India deliberated upon the issue and released its 'Report on Paid News'. The recommendations made by the Council in the Report are to give more powers to the Press Council of India to check the menace of 'paid news' effectively.

The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the recommendations made in the report on 'paid news' prepared by the Press Council of India and to give its views on a comprehensive policy and institutional mechanism to address this phenomenon. The matter is under consideration and no time limit has been specified for GoM to submit its report.