

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2402

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

OBSCENITY IN PRINT MEDIA

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

- (a) whether obscene/objectionable pictures are being depicted through the print media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of such cases/incidents reported and the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, print media-wise;
- (d) whether certain social organizations have urged the Government to stop/check such incidents to protect Indian culture; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Some instances of obscene/objectionable pictures in print media have been reported. The Government, in pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, does not exercise any control on the content in print media. However, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press.

The details of such cases/incidents reported to PCI during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken thereon is annexed at Annexure-I

The PCI in furtherance of its objective under Section 13(2) of the Act has been mandated to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards. Accordingly, the Press Council has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The relevant norm 17 relating to 'Obscenity and Vulgarity, is annexed at Annexure-II. The PCI, on specific complaints/suo moto adjudicates under section 14 of the Act and if satisfied that any violation of norms has taken place, it takes action to warn, admonish or censure the publication/journalist concerned.