

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:449
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Das Shri Khagen;Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) the present composition and mandate of the Press Council of India(PCI);
- (b) whether the Chairman, PCI has sought wider powers and proposed inclusion of the electronic media under the jurisdiction of PCI;
- (c) if so, the present status of these proposals; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 449 FOR ANSWER ON 08.05.2012

The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. As per Section 5 of the Act, the Council shall consist of a Chairman and twenty eight other members. Out of the twenty eight members of the Council, twenty members are nominated from the press. Besides, five members are nominated from amongst the members of the Parliament, out of which three are from the Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker and two from the Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. In addition, one member each is nominated from the University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi. The present composition of the Press Council of India is at Annexure – I.

The mandate of the Council is to preserve the freedom of the press and also to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The objects and functions of the Council are laid down under Section 13 of the Press Council Act are annexed at Annexure -II. In furtherance of its objects the Press Council of India has formulated Norms of Journalistic Conduct. The Council, suo moto or on complaints, adjudicates upon the violations of the norms of journalistic conduct and may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist, as the case may be.

The Chairman, PCI has proposed to bring electronic media also under the jurisdiction of the PCI. Besides, he has also sought more powers for the Council such as power to impose fine, to stop release of government advertisements to the offending newspaper and, to suspend/cancel registration of newspaper or accreditation of the editor or the journalist.