

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2745
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
AMENDMENT IN PRB ACT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867;
- (b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether broad consultations were held with the stakeholders in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the stakeholders have opposed some amendments proposed by the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the actions/steps being taken by the Government to address the concerns expressed by the stakeholders along with the time by which the proposed amendments are likely to be made?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The PRB Act, 1867 needs to be updated and revised to address certain issues governed by the Print Media Policy and the guidelines/rules. The Act has undergone minor amendments several times between 1870 & 1983 but with changing times, there is a need to contemporarize the Act as the existing provisions of the Act are inadequate to cater to the phenomenal growth of the Print Media Sector in view of the liberalization of the Govt. Policies. The details of major amendments and reasons for amending the Act are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Consultations were held with a number of stakeholders in this regard. Suggestions were received from Indian Newspapers Society, HT Media Ltd., Justicia – A Law Firm, Journal of Parasitic Diseases, Springer, SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd., Times of India Group, Indian Express, Indian Languages Newspapers Association, Association of Indian Magazines, Press Council of India etc. Secretary (I&B) and the members of INS also discussed the amendment proposal in detail in a meeting held on 14.3.2011.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. A number of stakeholders have expressed concerns on some of the proposed amendments. They have all been examined and those considered not feasible have been dropped. The final Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16th December, 2011.