

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2426
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF PRESS
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) had constituted a three members Inquiry Committee on the complaint about gag on the freedom of the press in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;
- (c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the major recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take any action for protecting the freedom of the press and preventing threats to our democracy; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

- (a): The Press Council of India (PCI) had constituted a three members Fact Finding Team to go into all aspects of the complaints of the violation of the freedom of the press in Bihar.
- (b): The terms of reference of the Committee were to inquire into the alleged violation of the freedom of the press guaranteed under article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and to give concrete recommendation to resolve the problems being faced by the journalist fraternity.
- (c) to (f):The Committee has submitted its report to the Press Council of India for consideration. The report is yet to be considered by the full Council.