

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3458
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
DISPUTE IN NEWS REPORTS
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) the rights and duties of the Press Council of India (PCI) with regard to conduct of inquiries into the credibility and disputes arising out of the news reports appearing in the newspapers of the country;
- (b) the number of complaints received by the PCI in respect of the National Dailies during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government/PCI on such complaints?

Answer

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

(a) The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. Accordingly, in order to inculcate principles of self-regulation amongst the press, the PCI under Section 13(2)(b) of the Act, has formed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The complaints of content in print media which are violative of the ethical norms of journalism, public taste or professional conduct are adjudicated by PCI in exercise of its powers provided under section 14 of the Act.

(b) The number of complaints received by PCI against national as well as regional newspapers during the last three years and the current year are, as follows,

Year Number of complaints received

2009-10 770

2010-11 713

2011-12 715

2012-13 792

(c) As per section 14 of the Act, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be. Accordingly, the PCI, has adjudicated upon these complaints in accordance with the provisions laid down under section 14 of the Act read with Press Council (Procedure of Inquiry) Regulations, 1979.