

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6651  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
ACCOUNTABILITY OF PCI  
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body;
- (b) if so, the present composition, mandate, duties along with the accountability of the PCI;
- (c) the eligibility and qualification required for the post of Chairman, PCI;
- (d) whether adverse remarks on a decision of the Supreme Court by the Chairman of the PCI, has been reported; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a): Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978.

(b): The Press Council consists of a Chairman and 28 other members, of whom 20 members represent the press organizations/news agencies recognized and notified by the Council as all India bodies for categories such as editors, working journalists and owners and managers of newspapers and news agencies. Besides, five members are nominated from the two Houses of Parliament and three other represent cultural, literary and legal fields as one nominee each of the Sahitya Academy, University Grants Commission and the Bar Council of India.

The objective of the PCI is to preserve the freedom of press and also to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. The functions of the Council are enumerated under section 13(2) of Press Council Act, 1978, which is annexed.

The performance of the Council is reviewed by the Parliament through the Annual Report laid before it.

(c): The Press Council Act does not specify the eligibility and qualification required for the post of Chairman, PCI but by convention, the Council has been chaired by a former Supreme Court Judge, since its inception. Under Section 5(2) of the Press Council Act, 1978 the Chairman shall be a person nominated by a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and a person elected by the members of the Council under sub-section (6).

(d) & (e): The details in this regard are being collected.