

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3115  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013  
PUBLICATION OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

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

- (a) whether the desired information has been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Question No. 4433 sought information whether the publication of 'classified documents' of the Government of India in a book is punishable under the Official Secrets Act, Newspaper (Incite to Offences) Act, 1908 and the Press (Objectionable Material) Act, 1857. The information in this regard has been received from M/o Law & Justice and M/o Home Affairs. M/o Law & Justice has informed that 'The Newspapers (Incitements to Offences) Act, 1908' has been repealed. Regarding 'Press (Objectionable Material) Act, 1857', it has been informed that no such act was enacted during that year, however one act, namely 'The Press (Objectionable Matter) Act' was enacted in the year 1951 which was later repealed in the year 1957.

M/o Home Affairs has informed that the publication of classified documents would be an offence if it falls under the purview of section 5 of the Official Secrets Act. Other provisions of the Act may be invoked, depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case. In case of violation of the provisions of the Act, necessary action as per the law and rules is taken. M/o Home Affairs processes the cases for authorization for filing complaints in the Courts of competent jurisdiction on receipt of specific reports/requests from concerned agencies/State Governments.

Regarding action taken against Har Anand Publications Pvt. Ltd. for the publication of 'secret' correspondence of two departments of the Government in one of its books, M/o Home Affairs has stated that the matter is under consideration and their comments would be sent in due course.