

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:94

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

OBJECTIVES OF PC ACT

Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) the objectives of the Press Council (PC) Act, 1978;
- (b) whether the above objectives are being realized;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The Press Council (PC) Act, 1978 provides for setting up of a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous body, Press Council of India (PCI) with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of press and also to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.

(b) to (d) As per mandate of the PC Act, the Council deals with the complaints against the Press as well as by the Press through its adjudicatory and advisory functions under section 13 & 14 of the Act. The Council, under section 13(2)(b) of the Act has also formed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The Council takes cognizance, suo motu or on complaints whenever it notices any curtailment of freedom of press or violation of its guidelines, as per Regulation 13 of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1978. PCI has received/adjudicated 85 & 151 complaints against the Press and 24 & 35 against threats to the Freedom of Press during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. Besides, the Council has also prepared reports on variety of issues such as Paid News, SEBI, Report on Freedom of Press in Bihar, FDI in Print, TRAI etc.

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