

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:734  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009  
COVERAGE PACKAGE FOR ELECTION CANDIDATE  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) whether there are reports regarding the introduction of coverage packages for candidates during elections by the electronic/print media where in extensive media space/coverage is offered to persons paying the prescribed fee;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct any enquiry in this regards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) to (e) : The issue of coverage package for candidates during elections by the electronic/print media may be an arrangement between the candidate and the media both print and electronic. Press Council of India, an autonomous body set up under the PCI Act 1978 has set up a Committee to look into the phenomenon of paid news.