

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3122  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009  
IRREGULARITIES IN JOURNALISM  
Singh Shri Uma Shanaker

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism including legal forum to examine/inquire into complains of corruption against journalists and has issued any guidelines in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of such cases/instances reported during each of the last three years and the current year and the action taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Press Council of India (PCI), as a quasi-judicial body receives complaints of yellow journalism, corruption and blackmailing by journalists. The PCI conducts hearing into the complaints through its inquiry committees. The inquiry committees, after written and oral submission of the parties, submit its recommendations in the matters to the full Council for action. The Council can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, editor or the journalist as the case may be under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978.

The Press Council of India, through its guidelines and adjudications has counseled reporter/ financial journalists/ newspaper establishments to refrain from receiving any gifts/ grants/ concessions/ facilities, etc., either in cash or kind which are likely to compromise on free and unbiased reporting. A copy of the recommendations of the Council on financial journalism is annexed at Annexure A. Besides a copy of the guidelines on 'Undue favours to journalists' is also annexed as Annexure B.

Further the Council has recently taken cognizance of reports of alleged payments taken during recent Lok Sabha Elections for favourable coverage and has constituted a Committee for examining the phenomenon of 'paid news'.

(c) A few complaints on the issue of paid news item have recently been received as per Annexure "C". Most of the complaints are at the preliminary stage for compliance of mandatory requirement of the Press Council (Procedure for inquiry) Regulations, 1979.