

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5686
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) has set up a Committee to determine the minimum qualification for a journalist;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the prominent journalists/experts and the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the PCI has the powers to supervise and regulate journalism institutes and departments;
- (d) if not, whether it is being proposed to empower the PCI to supervise and regulate the functioning of such institutions/departments so as to maintain high standards of imparting knowledge in journalism;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether persons with little or inadequate training are entering the profession leading to negative effects and erosion in standards and if so, the corrective measures being taken to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) : The Press Council of India (PCI) has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 as an autonomous body with the objective of preserving the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Chairman, PCI, having noted that there is a need for a qualification for entry into the profession of journalism, has constituted a Sub-Committee to consider all aspects of the matter. The Sub-Committee would also recommend the manner in which the Council can supervise and regulate the functioning of the institutions and departments of journalism in India, so that high standards of imparting knowledge in journalism are maintained.

Shri Shravan Garg, Member, PCI is the convener of the Sub-Committee. The other members of the PCI, Shri Rajeev Sabade, Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag, Shri Gurinder Singh along with Shri Sunit Tandon, Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Dr. Ujjawala Barve, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism, University of Pune are members of the Sub-Committee. Copy of the orders of the Chairman, Press Council of India is enclosed.

The Sub-Committee has invited views of the stakeholders on the subject. However, no written reaction has been received by the Council so far.