

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:303

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014

REGIONAL PRESS

Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal; Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

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

- (a) whether Indian print media including regional newspapers have shown healthy growth in recent years;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of newspapers published, State-wise including in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether cases of alleged malpractices by certain regional newspapers have been reported; and
- (d) if so, the details of such cases reported and action taken thereon, State-wise including in Maharashtra during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING; ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in Reply to Parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question no. 303 raised by Shri DilipkumarMansukhlal Gandhi and Shri RamsinhRathwa, for answer on 30/7/2014

(a) With the rise in the literacy rate in the Country, the Print Media in India, including Regional Media, have shown a regular growth in recent years. During the last four years, the numbers of publications registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) has increased from 77,384 to 99,660 with an overall increase of 28.79%.

In Maharashtra also, the print media has also shown a steady growth and total number of publications registered with RNI have gone upto 13375, as on 31.3.2014, as compared to the number of 9445, as on 31.3.2010, with an increase of 41.61%.

A statement showing the status of Publications registered with RNI during the last five years is attached Annexure-I.

(b) A statement showing the State/UT wise details of publications, registered with RNI, including those of Maharashtra, as on 31.3.2014, is as placed at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with one of the objectives to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate principles of self- regulation amongst the press. The Council receives and adjudicates the complaints against the content in the print media. Statement indicating number of cases received by the PCI and RNI along with the action taken thereon during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is at Annexure-III and IV respectively.