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Title: Need to constitute a Media Commission to examine and report on the state of the media in the country - Laid.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (ERNAKULAM): The two Press Commissions, in their reports submitted in 1954 and 1982, had given valuable suggestions for improving the standards and performance of newspapers. The Press Council of India was established in 1966 on the basis of the recommendation of the first Press Commission for the setting up of a statutory and autonomous body. The second Press Commission had gone in detail on a variety of issues ranging from empowering the Press Council to codification of parliamentary privileges. The media scenario in the country has undergone a sea change since 1982 with the advent and expansion of radio and television. Opening up the electronic media to private operators and permission of FDI in print media are creating problems and raising several fundamental issues. The government is contemplating statutory means to regulate broadcasting services which will have serious constitutional consequences. It will be in the fitness of things if a Media Commission is constituted, as a continuation of the First and Second Press Commissions, to examine and report on the state of the media in the country today. It will be an authoritative basis for media-related legislation.

16.49 hrs.