

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
COMMITTEE ON PAID NEWS .

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Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy

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

(a) whether, grappling with the task of preparing a report on paid news, the Committee of the Press Council of India, set up for the purpose, decided to define the pernicious practice and treat it as a malaise that should be tackled by the industry;

(b) whether the Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri H.N.Cama decided that the phenomenon of paid news needs to be treated as a menace that brought a bad name to the industry;

(c) if so, the decisions taken by the Committee in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which Government has accepted them?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body set up under Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India, has constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the 'Paid News Syndrome'. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report for consideration of the full Council. In a special meeting of the Council held on 26.04.2010, the report of the Sub-committee was considered and the Council decided to constitute a Drafting Committee to draft a report drawing upon the information and findings of the Sub-Committee. The Drafting Committee of which Shri H.N. Cama is the Convenor, has been given a time frame of three months to finalize the Report and the Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of July, 2010.

(d) The Government will take appropriate action on receiving the recommendations of the Press Council of India in this regard.