

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1045
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2016**

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

**1045. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Press Council of India (PCI) has not been able to protect the interest of the readers;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number and details of major judgments given by the PCI during the last three years;
- (d) whether the judgements of the said Council not observed during the said period, if so, the details thereof along with the name of the media houses which have not observed the said judgments; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. Accordingly, in order to inculcate principles of self-regulation amongst the press, the Council under section 13(2)(b) of the Act, has formed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The complaints of content in print media which are in violation of the ethical norms of journalism, public taste or professional conduct are adjudicated by the Council in exercise of its powers provided under section 14 of the Act. As per section 14 of the Act, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be.

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The Press Council is not merely an adjudicatory body, but also a conscience keeper. The Council does not merely decide the complaints brought before it, it builds up under Section 13(2) of the Act, principles/ norms that could guide the journalists along the right path. The statistics of the complaint dealt with by the Council and the inflow of the references from the authorities are ample proof of the faith reposed in the Council by the citizens as well as the authorities of the country.

(c): A list of major decisions given by Press Council of India during the last three years is placed at **Annexure**.

(d) & (e): In large number of cases, the newspapers have been following the judgements of the Press Council of India. However, there is no provision in the Press Council Act, 1978 for taking any action against the newspapers in case of non-compliance of the directions by the Press Council of India.

Annexure as referred to in part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1045 regarding Press Council of India.**List of Major judgments observed by Press Council of India during the last three financial years.**

S. No.	Subject/issue	Date of decision	Remarks/Action Taken
1.	Complaint dated 31 st May 2010 of Shri Rubbabuddin Sheikh, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Raj Express, Indore, M.P regarding publication of false and baseless news article.	22 nd July 2013	Censured the newspaper 'Raj Express'.
2.	Complaint dated 18 th July 2008 of Shri Premshankar Mishra, Advocate, Gorakhpur, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Gorakhpur, U.P. regarding publication of false and defamatory news items.	22 nd July 2013	Admonished the newspaper 'Dainik Hindustan'.
3.	Complaint dated 18 th July 2008 of Shri Premshankar Mishra, Advocate, Gorakhpur, U.P. against the Editor, Rashtriya Sahara, Gorakhpur, U.P. regarding publication of false and defamatory news items.	22 nd July 2013	Admonished the newspaper 'Rashtriya Sahara'.
4.	Complaint dated 30 th June 2010 of Major General Sanjeev Madhok, Additional Director General Public Information, General Staff Branch, Integrated Head Quarter of Ministry of Defence (Army), South Block, New Delhi against the Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi regarding publication of objectionable news article.	22 nd July 2013	Admonished the newspaper 'Hindustan Times'.
5.	Complaint dated 27 th October 2009 of Shri Zaheer Malik, Chairman, Nagar Panchayat, Zalalabad, Muzaffarnagar, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut, U.P. regarding publication of false and defamatory news item.	22 nd July 2013	Disposed of with observations and directions.
6.	Complaint dated 9 th June 2011 of Shri Parmatma Sharan Kansal, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Janvani, Meerut, U.P. regarding publication of false, baseless and defamatory news item.	22 nd July 2013	Censured the newspaper 'Dainik Janvani'.
7.	Complaint dated 31 st March 2011 of Mrs. S. L. Kameshwari, Assistant Professor, College of Home Science, Saifabad, Hyderabad, A.P. against the Editor, Andhra Jyothi, Hyderabad regarding publication of defamatory news item.	22 nd July 2013	Censured and admonished the newspaper 'Andhra Jyothi'.

8.	Complaint dated by (i) U.P. Journalist Association, Hathras (ii) Press Club, Hathras (iii) Indian Human Rights Association, Hathras, U.P. against the Police Authorities, Hathras, U.P. regarding assault on media persons.	15 th November 2013	Directions.
9.	Complaint dated 16 th April 2012 of General Secretary, Popular Front of India, Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi against the Editor Hindustan Times, Lucknow, U.P. regarding publication of false, fictitious, baseless and defamatory news item.	15 th November 2013	Disposed of with directions.
10.	Complaint dated 16 th December 2011 of Smt. Vimla Devi, Spokesperson, Citizen Charter, Correspondent, N.D. Inter College, Jalalpur, Ambedkarnagar, U.P. against the Chief Editor, Moolniwasi Nayak, Lucknow, U.P. regarding publication of defamatory news item.	15 th November 2013	Admonished and Censured the newspaper 'Moolniwasi Nayak'.
11.	Complaint dated 27 th August 2011 of Shri Abhishek Goyal, Ahmedabad against the Editor, Sandesh, Gujarati Daily, Ahmedabad regarding publication of false and defamatory news item.	10 th January 2014	Admonished and Censured the newspaper 'Sandesh'.
12.	Complaint dated 7 th December 2012 of Smt. Rinki Singh (through her brother, Shri Ravi Kumar Singh), New Delhi against the Editor, Jan Sandesh Times, Varanasi, U.P. regarding publication of defamatory, objectionable and scandalous news item.	2 nd June 2014	Disposed of with directions to the newspaper to publish an apology prominently in its newspaper.
13.	Complaint dated 10 th March 2013 of Shri Umashankar Shukla and Shri Saket Shukla, Baskar, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Channel India, Chhattisgarh regarding publication of false and defamatory news item.	2 nd June 2014	Admonished and Censured the newspaper 'Channel India'.
14.	Complaint dated 26 th July 2013 of Dr. Charu Walikhanna, Member, National Commissioner for Women, New Delhi against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Noida, U.P. regarding publication of offensive and defamatory news item.	2 nd June 2014	Admonished and Censured the newspaper 'Dainik Bhaskar'.
15.	Complaint dated 16 th November 2012 of Smt. Usha Yadav, Chairman, Nav Uday Nari Utthan Samiti, Bhopal, M.P. against the Editor, Patrika, Bhopal, M.P. regarding publication of false, baseless and misleading news articles.	2 nd June 2014	Admonished and Censured the newspaper 'Patrika'.
16.	Complaint dated 10 th October 2012 of Shri L. S. Herdenia, Bhopal against the Editor, Panchjanya, New Delhi regarding publication of false, distorted and provocative news item.	2 nd June 2014	Dismissed the complaint.

17.	Complaint dated 14 th March 2013 of Shri Shyam Pannalaji Sharma, Member, Executive Committee, Berar General Education Society, Akola, Maharashtra against the Editors Suryodaya, Maharashtra regarding publication false, baseless, vulgar and obscene news item.	7 th August 2015	Censured the editor, Suryodaya.
18.	Complaint dated 4 th September 2012 of Shri Rakesh Kumar Kushwaha, Kanpur, U.P. against the Editor, Electric Market Report, Kanpur, U.P. regarding publication of one sided and defamatory news item.	7 th August 2015	Censured the editor, Electric Market Report.
19.	Complaint dated 31 st October 2009 of Prof. Sandeep K. Malhotra, Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, The Times of India, Lucknow, U.P. regarding publication of false, misleading and fabricated news items.	11 th December 2015	Censured the newspaper 'The Times of India'.
20.	Complaint dated 24 th November 2014 of Shri Jagannath Bastia, President, Puri Journalist Association, Puri, Orissa against the Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, UCO Bank regarding distribution of money in a Government Press Conference for coverage of favourable news of Parliamentary Standing Committee.	11 th December 2015	Disposed of.
21.	Complaint dated 29 th November 2013 of Shri C. Hanumantharayappa, Bangalore, Karnataka against the Editor, Naavu Bandeddavaru, Bangalore, Karnataka regarding publication of false and baseless news item with his photograph in its issue dated 10 th November 2013	17 th March 2016	Censured the newspaper 'Naavu Bandeddavaru'.
22.	Complaint dated 3 rd July 2013 of Shri Sonu Maheshwari, Chairman, Naujawan Welfare Society, Bathinda against the Editor, Punjab Kesari regarding publishing objectionable advertisement regarding sale of unborn baby in its issue dated 30 th June 2013.	17 th March 2016	Warned the newspaper Punjab Kesari.
23.	Complaint dated 20 th March 2015 of State Bank of Patiala, Lodhi Road, New Delhi against the Editor, The Halla Bol Times, Delhi regarding publication of false and defamatory news item.	17 th March 2016	Censured the newspaper 'The Halla Bol Times'.