

Publication of news items on monetary considerations

3295. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of reports in the media that some sections of the electronic and print media are receiving monetary considerations for publishing/ broadcasting news items in favour of certain individuals, organizations, corporates; etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken or contemplated by Government to check such practice of disguising advertisement as news items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) There have been a number of media reports that sections of the electronic and print media have received monetary considerations for publishing or broadcasting in favour of particular individuals or organizations or corporate entities, what is essentially advertisement disguised as news. This has been commonly referred to as the paid news syndrome.

(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 to the Council and the finalization of the Report by the full Council is expected by the end of April 2010. The Government will take a view on receiving the recommendations of the Press council of India in this regard.

Disruption of film shootings

3296. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since last couple of months film shootings in Mumbai are being disrupted by some elements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such disruptions have caused losses to the film industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Capital and financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati

3297. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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