

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:

(a) whether Government has received the recommendations on capital and financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati from any group of committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, I&B on 30th March, 2005 to examine and submit a report on the issue relating to the Capital and Financial restructuring of Prasar Bharati. The Committee submitted its report on 18.5.2006. In the meantime, a Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted on 7th March, 2006 to study and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati including the issue of capital and financial restructuring. The report of the Committee was considered by the GOM. GOM while laying down the broad outlines, recommended that the Ministry should formulate a proposal in consultation with Prasar Bharati incorporating the broad principles laid down by GOM and take up the matter with Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. GOM further recommended that the final proposal after consulting Department of Expenditure may be brought before it for further consideration and recommendations. After a number of discussions with the Department of Expenditure, no consensus could emerge and thus the matter could not be finalized during the tenure of the previous GOM.

The GOM was re-constituted on 10.02.2010 and in its first meeting held on 16.04.2010, GOM discussed the matter of Capital and Financial restructuring among other issues. The recommendations of GOM are awaited.

Corruption in judiciary

3298. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of corruption in higher judiciary have come to the fore and have attracted notice of the press as well as Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate law to tackle corruption in judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Allegations of corruption in the judiciary have come to the notice of the Government and have been reported in the press also from time to time.

Accountability in the higher judiciary is, at present, being enforced and maintained through