

Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press. In furtherance of its objective, PCI has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. These norms cover principles and ethics of journalism and also the guidelines for news reporting on various specific issues such as communal disturbances, HIV/AIDS, Election Reporting etc. The Council has also drawn up a set of guidelines that are applicable to financial journalism and also on reporting of elections.

The Council monitors and takes cognizance, *suo-motu* or on complaints, of contents in print media which *prima facie*, are violative of Norms of Journalistic Conduct framed by PCI. The council 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.

So far as electronic media is concerned, all private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme & Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed there under. The News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), which are private agencies, have also put in place self-regulatory complaint redressal mechanism with respect to complaints regarding content telecast by TV channels. This Ministry sends complaint against TV content to them for appropriate action from time to time.

Independence of State run broadcasting network

982. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the independence of the State run broadcasting network *i.e.* DD/AIR is overshadowed by the ideological apartheid and hate for the different view point, if so, what is Government's view in this regard; and

(b) whether Government is aware that some journalists were decommissioned from DD and barred to present programmes curtailing their independence, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Prasar Bharati, comprising of All India Radio and Doordarshan, is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament *i.e.* the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 and it is not a State run Broadcasting network.

Prasar Bharati has informed that they carry out the public broadcasting services in a fair and objective manner and they do not discriminate on the basis of ideologies. The Government is of the view that Prasar Bharati is not overshadowed by the ideological apartheid or hate.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that no journalist has been decommissioned or debarred by Doordarshan to curtail their independence. Prasar Bharati has further informed that the journalists are invited as per the requirements, without any discrimination.

Funds to meet expenses of repatriation

983. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government collects an amount from every Indian emigre in order to meet expenses of their repatriation, if found necessary;

(b) whether in the past such funds were not used for such purposes and over the years it has swelled to hundreds of crores of rupees; and

(c) whether Government will see to it that such funds are used to meet expenses of bringing back emigres in distress such as those now trapped in Iraq or those found in helpless situations in Gulf countries and elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government has set up the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) at the Mission level for welfare of Overseas Indian. The fund is raised by the Indian Missions by levying additional charge on consular services. In addition, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs provides budgetary support for setting up ICWF to the tune of ₹ 5 lakh per year. This contribution is initially for a period of three years or till the period fund become self sustaining, whichever is earlier.

The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is aimed at providing the following services on a "means tested basis" in the most deserving cases:

- (i) Boarding and lodging for distressed Overseas Indian workers in household/ domestic sectors and unskilled labourers;
- (ii) Extending emergency medical care to the Overseas Indians in need;
- (iii) Providing air passage to stranded Overseas Indians in need;
- (iv) Providing initial legal assistance to the Overseas Indians in deserving cases;