

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1418
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
ATTACK ON PRESS/MEDIA PERSONNEL
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Sujatha Smt. C.S.;Thomas Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether there were a series of attacks on Press and Media personnel in some parts of India recently;
- (b) if so, whether in October/November some such incidents have been reported in Kerala?
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Press Council of India or any other Central Authorities have received such complaints; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) : Some incidents of violence and roughing up of newsmen, were brought to the notice of the Press Council by Dr. Sebastian Paul, M.P., Lok Sabha, and Member, Press Council of India.

A memorandum dated 2.12.2004 by the Kerala Journalists Union has also been filed with the Press Council, seeking urgent intervention to check the increasing attacks on journalists and media institutions in Kerala by the Police and Political Party workers.

The Press Council of India in its meeting held on 16.11.2004 at New Delhi, has taken serious note of the reports and expressed its deep concern over the incidents. The Council decided to set up a three member Fact Finding Committee, to make an on-the-spot inquiry into the alleged incident.

The Council vide its letter dated 3.12.2004, has written to the Government of Kerala, to look into the matter and to direct the concerned authorities, to ensure that the media is able to discharge its function without any hindrance.