**E-CONTENT**

**MJMC,  SEM-IV, PAPER-XIV (CC-402)**

**Topic : Press Council & Media (Press and Morality)**

**Date : 27-01-2020, TIME : 2.00 P.M.-3.00 P.M.**

**PREPARED BY : AMIT KUMAR**

**Press Council & Media (Press and Morality)**

Globalization and liberalization does not give licence to the media to misuse its freedom and to lower the values of the Society. The media performs a distinct role and has nothing in common with other industries and business. So far as this role is concerned, one of the duties of the media is to preserve and promote our cultural heritage and social values. Certain sections of the press have been imitating western culture by publishing vulgar photographs and columns, which boast of no public interest at all. On the contrary such publications affect the adolescent mind in a negative manner.

Whenever the Council comes across such instances, it takes suo-motu actions. Apart from this it also adjudicates upon complaints received on such matters. In six matters, the question of obscenity was adjudicated upon by the Council, of which two were *suo-motu* actions. The charge of offence against public taste and morality against the newspapers concerned was upheld in all the six matters. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

**Conclusion**

The date the Press Council started functioning 16th of November (1966) is observed as the National Press Day. What sets the Press Council of India apart from other parallel institutions worldwide is that while it has been set up under an Act of Parliament, and notwithstanding the fact that a substantial part of its funds comes by way of grants-in-aid from the government, it has full functional autonomy and independence from governmental control in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

Another extremely healthy feature of the Press Council of India is the fact that the Press Council of India, unlike other Press Councils the world, adjudicates complaints not only against the Press but also complaints by the Press against governmental and other authorities.

In the complaints being lodged against the press for alleged violation of norms of journalistic conduct, about 60% carry charges of defamation. About 25% relate to matters of principle like right to reply, plagiarism, fratricidal tiffs, unauthorized lifting of news from other papers, etc. In the remaining 15% cases, the complainants may be aggrieved over reports that hurt religious, communal and casteist sentiments.

In cases of complaints against authorities, about 65% converge on charges of attempts to intimidate, harass or physically assault the press men, while the remaining allege withdrawal by the State authorities of facilities like accreditation to a journalist which are essential in the discharge of professional duties or malafide denial of State advertisements often on account of unpalatable writings.

During April 1, 2001-March 31, 2002 the Council received 390 complaints, charging the

governmental or other authorities with attempts at abridging the free functioning of the print media. Besides162 matters were pending consideration from the previous year. Of the 552 matters requiring the Council’s attention 35 were disposed of by way of adjudication, while 333 were dismissed at the preliminary stage for lack of grounds for inquiry, the said matters being outside the Councils’ charter or having gone to a court of law. 184 matters were under process at the end of the period under review.

Adjudications on complaints under this chapter have been analysed graphically while detailed

adjudications have been carried in the Council’s quarterly journals, viz. ‘The Press Council of India Review’ in English and ‘Press Parishad Samiksha’ in Hindi.