

Adjudications Rendered by the Council on 22.01.2020

Section 13 – Complaints by the Press

Cases heard by Inquiry Committee-I in its meeting held on 17th & 18th December, 2019 at New Delhi.

S.No.	Subject	File No.
1	Complaint of Shri Hari Om Sharma, District Representative, Univarta, Aligarh against Smt. Jyoti Sharma, Assistant, SBI, Aligarh and Shri Bhisendra Kumar Pathak, P.O. in Gramin Bank, Aligarh	13/10/19-20
2	Suo-Motu cognizance w.r.t filing an FIR against Shri Pawan Jaiswal, Correspondent, Jan Sandesh Times, Mirzapur for exposing Mid-Day Meal Issue.	13/117/Suo-Motu.19-20
3	Suo Motu cognizance taken by the Press Council of India on the death of Shri K Satyanarayana, Journalist, Andhra Jyothi.	13/145/19-20
4	Complaint of Shri Om Prakash Dohre, Hamirpur, U.P. against Shri Umashankar, Shri Asad Khan, Shri Arun Shrivastav, Uttar Pradesh.	13/201/18-19
5	Complaint of Shri Sohan Singh, Kakoni Basi, U.P. against Officer, Information Department, U.P.	13/218/18-19
6	Complaint of Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta, National Monthly Magazine, Hardoi against the District Information Officer.	13/202/18-19
7	Complaint of Shri Pushkar Bajpai, Kanpur Mandal Prabhari, Dainik Tarun Mitra, Kanpur against Shri P.K.Singh, Deputy Director Information, Kanpur Nagar	13/205/18-19
8	Complaint of Shri Amir Solanki, Editor, Alert Team, Kanpur, U.P. against Shri Lalit Kumar, R.I, R.T.O	13/191/18-19
9	Complaint of Shri Nashir Qureshi, Editor, Satyam News, Bhadohi, U.P. against Shri Rajender Duba, Executive Officer, Office of Nagar Panchayat, Badohi, U.P.	13/196/18-19
10	Shri Om Prakash Bahol, Editor, Duniya Ek Nazar Mei, Aligarh against the Block Development Officer, Aligarh, U.P.	13/48/19-20
11	Complaint of Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak, Journalist through its Editor-In-Chief, Gaon-Gaon ki Khabar, Lucknow, U.P against Police.	13/11/19-20
12	Complaint of Shri Vipin Bihari Tripathi, District Editor, Trigut Dainik, Basti, U.P. against the Deputy Director of Information Department, Faizabad, U.P.	13/14/19-20
13	Complaint of Shri Pramod Kumar Shrivastav, Correspondent, Baldev Sahara, U.P. against Information & Public Relations Department, Lucknow, U.P.	13/30/19-20
14	Complaint of Shri Arvind Kumar Shukla, Editor/Publisher, Weekly daily Dehat Suryauday. Kanpur Dehat, U.P. against RNI	13/3/19-20

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

S. No. 1

File no. 13/10/19-20/PCI

Complainant

Shri Hariom Sharma,
District Representative,
United News of India,
Aligarh.

Respondent

Smt. Jyoti Sharma ,
W/o Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak,
Assistant,
State Bank of India,
Aligarh.

Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak,
Probation Officer,
Regional Gramin Bank of Aryavrat,
Aligarh.

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 27.3.2019 has been filed by Shri Hariom Sharma, District Representative, United News of India, Aligarh against Smt. Jyoti Sharma, Assistant, State Bank of India and Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak allegedly for misbehaving and threatening him.

The complainant submitted that on receiving the news with respect to illegal money recovery in the name of “Pardhan Mantri Aawas Yojna”, he went to the Head office of the State Bank of India, Aligarh on 22.3.2019 to collect substantial facts in the matter. The manager of SBI called Smt. Jyoti, Assistant in his cabin to enquire about the case. The complainant further submitted that when he was stepping out of the bank, Smt. Jyoti called her husband and both of them scuffled with him in front of Branch’s counter no. 3 and while threatening to kill him, directed not to publish any news in this regard. The complainant filed a complaint before the Sr. Superintendent of Police, Aligarh and Incharge, Civil Lines. He has requested the Council to take action in the matter.

Notice for comments was issued to Smt. Jyoti Sharma and Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak on 30.4.2019. A letter dated 30.4.2019 followed by a reminder dated 26.7.2019 was also sent to the Sr. Superintendent of Police, Aligarh to file Report in the matter.

Comments of Smt. Jyoti

Smt. Jyoti vide undated Comments submitted that she works as an Assistant with State Bank of India, Aligarh and her duties also include dispatching and receiving of Dak. The complainant had also been working with the same bank as an agent to collect Dak from office. During the tenure, the complainant somehow received her personal contact no. and started sending messages and calling her unnecessarily several times. She further submitted that the complainant sent her

obscene messages. When she asked the complainant to stop these activities, he threatened her of dire consequences. She informed the whole incident to the immediate supervisor and office colleague.

She further submitted that since the complainant comes to bank to collect Dak, she along with her husband on 22.3.2019 tried to make the complainant understand not to repeat such conduct in presence of Manager. The complainant got furious and said he is the member of Press Council of India and threatened them to drag to Delhi.

She submitted that she is just an Assistant and does not have any right to interfere with the functioning of loan process. Her husband works as an officer in the Aryavart Gramin Bank. He has nothing to do with the State Bank of India. The allegations therefore levelled by the complainant are false. She has requested the Council to take action against the complainant.

Comments of Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak

Shri Bhishmendra Kr. Pathak, husband of Smt. Jyoti, vide Comments dated 18.5.2019, while reiterating the reply filed by his wife submitted that when his wife informed him about the matter, he reached State Bank of India to enquire about messages sent by the complainant. He further submitted that when he asked the complainant about the matter, the complainant, under the garb of journalism, started threatening to implicate him in false cases. The respondent submitted that the complainant never visits SBI as a journalist and now he has filed baseless complaint to implicate him and his wife by taking advantage of being a journalist. He has requested the Council to debar such journalist from Press Council and ensure these kind of people should not take advantage of harassment of female employee in the name of Press.

Counter Comments of the complainant

The complainant vide Counter comments dated 8.6.2019, while reiterating the complaint submitted that a few complainants namely Shri Gaffar Khan, Shri Abdul Rehman and Shri Sharif had lodged a complaint to the Headquarter of the State Bank of India stating that Shri Bhishmender had demanded Rs. 10000 each in the name of "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojan" and assured them to get their loan approved either from the SBI or from the Bank he has been working but the loan never got approved. The same was published by the Dainik Hindustan on 30.3.2019 and Amar Ujala on 31.3.2019 under the caption "पीएम आवास के नाम पर ठगी" and "ठगी का आरोप" respectively.

The complainant further submitted that Smt. Jyoti has assassinated his character by presenting the wrong facts before the Press Council. He has requested the Council to take action against the respondents.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The respondents, Smt. Jyoti Sharma and Shri Bhishmendra Kumar Pathak appeared in person.

Despite service of Notice, the complainant is not present. He has asked for adjournment of the case. The Inquiry Committee is not inclined to accede to the prayer. The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint and the reply of the respondent and is of the opinion that the grievance made by the complainant is absolutely false and concocted. In fact, the Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the respondent herself was harassed by the complainant.

Accordingly, the Inquiry Committee recommends for dismissal of the complaint with further directions that a copy of this order and the entire material be forwarded to the Editor of the UNI for appropriate action in accordance with law.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

Press Council of India

S.No. 2

F.No.13/117/Suo-Motu/19-20-PCI.

Suo-motu cognizance with regard to filing FIR against Shri Pawan Jaiswal, Correspondent of Jan Sandesh Times, Mirzapur (U.P.)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

It has come to the notice of the Council through news reports and references received from the former Members of Press Council of India that an FIR has been filed against Shri Pawan Jaiswal, Correspondent, Jan Sandesh Times, Mirzapur for exposing mid-day meal issue in Mirzapur district of U.P.

The news reports state that the Uttar Pradesh Government booked a journalist along with two others including the Seur Village Pradhan Pratinidhi (Representative of Village Head) on charges of criminal conspiracy and fraud. It was further reported that the FIR was filed ten days after a video showing students of the Seur Government Primary School in Mirzapur being served only 'Roti-Salt' under the mid-day meal scheme surfaced on social media. The video was shot by Shri Pawan Jaiswal. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home) said that Shri Jaiswal was called to make this video which was stage-managed by the Mirzapur Pradhan's "so-called representative". It was also reported that the FIR was registered at Ahraura Police Station in Mirzapur based on a complaint by the Block Education Officer. It charged Shri Jaiswal and Pradhan Pratinidhi, Shri Rajkumar Pal with criminal conspiracy for making the video and 'maligning the image of the State Government'. According to the FIR, the Pradhan Pratinidhi had information that only Rotis were prepared in the school and vegetables were unavailable. However, instead of informing the Pradhan, he allegedly conspired with local journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal by asking him to make a video of the students being served 'Roti-Salt' in the midday meal, which was later forwarded to a TV Reporter for further circulation.

According to the news reports, speaking to the Indian Express, Shri Jaiswal said that he had received frequent reports about bad quality food being served at the school and when he got similar information on August 22 from Shri Rajkumar, he rushed there and made the video. He said that he gave the video to an ANI journalist and posted it later in the day on a local media WhatsApp group. Jan Sandesh Times's Editor, Shri Vijay Vineet said that this was an attempt by an administration to shut the voices of those raising matters related to public welfare. He said that they would support their correspondent at any cost.

The Council took suo-motu cognizance of the matter and issued Notices for Statement in Reply to the Government of U.P. on 4.9.2019.

A Fact Finding Committee consisting of Council's Members comprising, S/Shri Sayed Raza Husain Rizvi and Shayam Singh Panwar was constituted to look into the matter and submit Report.

Communication from Shri Pawan Jaiswal

The victim Journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal vide his communication dated 2.9.2019 informed that he regularly writes against the offenders, due to which many people were annoyed with him. He further stated that he had exposed the mid-day meal in the primary school of Village Seur, in which many officers were found guilty and action was taken against them. He has alleged that he is now being constantly threatened to implicate in false case.

Report of the Fact Finding Team (Annexure-‘A’)

The Fact Finding Team of the Council reached Mirzapur on 13.9.2019 and met the victim journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal and other local journalists and they informed that the incident of serving of ‘Roti-Salt’ to the students in the school is true. Shri Pawan Jaiswal informed the Team that his intention behind exposing this news was not to tarnish the image of the district administration but to highlight the corruption. On 14.9.2019, the team met the cooks of the primary school and they accepted that in the absence of other food, the ‘Roti-Salt’ was served to the students and it has happened many times in the past. The suspended Assistant Teacher informed the Team that the incident is true, infact that day Pradhan Pratinidhi, Shri Rajkumar Pal did not order vegetables and in the absence of vegetables, the Pradhan Pratinidhi deliberately served ‘Roti-Salt’ and made video through a journalist. The Team also met District Magistrate and Additional District Magistrate, Mirzapur and they indirectly accepted the incident and also told that the journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal should have taken their permission before running the news. They also told that the making of video of serving the ‘Roti-Salt’ was pre-planned at the behest of the Pradhan Pratinidhi, due to which image of the District Administration was tarnished. On the complaint of Block Education Officer, a case No.0130/2019 under Sections 120B/186/193/420 was registered in Ahraura Police Station against Shri Pawan Jaiswal and others.

The Fact Finding Team concluded that the ‘Roti-Salt’ was served to the students in the school and with a view to make it a news, Shri Rajkumar Pal called the journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal and recorded the incident. The Team further concluded that the Pradhan Pratinidhi was very well aware of the possibility of serving ‘Roti-Salt’ as he knew that there was nothing in the kitchen to serve. So he called his known journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal and insisted to make the video. The Team also concluded that no involvement of the journalist, Shri Pawan Jaiswal was found in serving the ‘Roti-Salt’. Aggrieved with this action, the administration filed the case against the journalist and others for making conspiracy of serving the ‘Roti-Salt’ in the school.

No Reply was received from the Government of U.P.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Pawan Jaiswal, Correspondent, Jan Sandesh Times

appeared and Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police appeared on behalf of Sr. Superintendent of Police, Mirzapur.

A legitimate professional obligation undertaken by Mr. Pawan Jaiswal, Correspondent of Jan Sandesh Times has invited uncalled for trouble for him. He exposed the malady in Mid-day meal taking place at a remote village Seur in the district of Mirzapur. The news related to providing only roti and salt under the midday meal scheme to the students of Seur Government Primary School. The Block Education Officer, Prem Shankar Rai aggrieved by the aforesaid gave report to Ahraura Police Station alleging criminal conspiracy against the journalist for maligning the image of the State Government. This led to lodging of FIR against Shri Jaiswal.

Outraged by this act, the Journalists' and Editors' Associations while condemning the lodging of the First Information Report (FIR) against the journalist brought this to the notice of the Council. The Council being *prima-facie* satisfied that the action of lodging of FIR against the journalist tends to affect the freedom of the press took suo motu cognizance and issued notice to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. It also constituted a Fact Finding Committee of its member to ascertain the facts. The Sub-Committee in its report has, *inter alia*, observed that the journalist had no involvement in serving Roti-Salt. In the opinion of the Sub-Committee feeling embarrassed by the exposure, the administration had filed the case against the journalist.

It is unfortunate that neither the Chief Secretary nor the Director General of Police has chosen to file the reply. However, during the course of hearing by the Inquiry Committee, Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police has appeared. He states that during investigation, involvement of the journalist has not been found and accordingly final Report has been submitted. This gives a little solace to the Inquiry Committee but what pains us is the trauma and humiliation the journalist had suffered due to lodging of criminal case for doing a commendable professional job. The Inquiry Committee is conscious of the fact that if the report discloses commission of a cognizable offence, Police has to register the case and make investigation. However, in the present case on perusal of the FIR, the Inquiry Committee does not find any allegation, excepting a bold allegation of conspiracy against the journalist. How and in what manner he had committed the offence of conspiracy is totally missing. The Police authorities before registering the FIR ought to have bore in mind that lodging of such case against a journalist invites international ridicule and brings bad name to the country.

With a view to stop repetition of this kind of incidents, the investigating agency and Government of Uttar Pradesh shall be well advised to prosecute the officer on whose information the FIR was registered for making false allegation against the journalist and such other action as deemed necessary.

The Inquiry Committee recommends for dropping the proceeding with the aforesaid recommendations.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Inquiry Committee and decides to convey recommendations to the Govt. of U.P. and drops the proceedings in the matter.

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Annexure 'A'

(17/19)

प्रतिष्ठा में,
माननीय अध्यक्ष
भारतीय प्रेस परिषद, नई दिल्ली।

विषय: मीरजापुर जनपद का मिड-डे-मील (नमक-रोटी वितरण) की खबर चलाने पर 'पत्रकार के विरुद्ध एफ आई आर' दर्ज किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में फ़ैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी की रिपोर्ट।

महोदय,

मीरजापुर जनपद के विकास खण्ड जमालपुर के ग्रामसभा हिनौता अन्तर्गत प्राथमिक विद्यालय शिऊर में अध्यनरत छात्र-छात्राओं को बिगत 22 अगस्त 2019 को मिड-डे-मील में नमक-रोटी वितरित किये जाने की खबर वाराणसी संस्करण जन संदेश टाइम्स समाचार पत्र में 23 अगस्त 2019 के अंक में पृष्ठ 10 पर शीर्षक 'प्राथमिक विद्यालय के मिड-डे-मील में मिलता है नमक रोटी' छपी थी। यह खबर छपते ही जिला प्रशासन में हड़कम्प मच गया और आनन फानन में जिला अधिकारी सहित अन्य स्थानीय अधिकारियों ने प्राथमिक विद्यालय शिऊर में पहुंचकर मामले की वास्तविकता जानने के लिए विद्यालय के शिक्षा मित्र, रसोई बनाने वाली कार्यकर्त्रियों, अध्यनरत छात्र-छात्राओं सहित अन्य लोगों से पूछताछ की तो यह तथ्य सामने आया कि 22 अगस्त 2019 को मिड-डे-मील में नमक रोटी ही छात्र-छात्राओं को दी गई थी।

मिड-डे-मील में नमक रोटी बांटने की पुष्टि होने व मामले को तूल पकड़ता देखते ही जिला अधिकारी अनुराग पटेल ने विद्यालय में तैनात अध्यापक मुरारी, न्यायपंचायत समन्वयक अरविन्द्र त्रिपाठी को तत्काल प्रभाव से निलम्बित कर दिया। साथ ही खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी बृजेश कुमार सिंह के निलम्बन की संस्तुति करते हुए अपर जिला अधिकारी यू0 पी0 सिंह व उप जिला अधिकारी चुनार सत्य प्रकाश सिंह की टीम बनाकर मामले की जाँच करवाई तो पता चला कि नमक रोटी बांटने की खबर सही है। लेकिन तबतक जिला प्रशासन की छवि को बट्टा लगने की चर्चा जिले में ही नहीं अपितु पूरे प्रदेश में हो गई। साथ ही मिड-डे-मील प्रकरण की खबरें मीरजापुर में प्रसारित होने वाले समाचार पत्रों में लगभग हर रोज प्रकाशित होने लगीं और जिला प्रशासन की छवि खराब होने लगी, इसके अलावा जिला अधिकारी की कार्यशैली पर भी सवालिया निसान लगने लगे। उक्त मामले में अपनी किरकिरी से बचने के लिये जिला अधिकारी ने स्थानीय स्तर के अधिकारियों पर दबाव बना लिया, परिणामतः खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी प्रेम शंकर राम ने प्रधान प्रतिनिधि राज कुमार पाल व खबर संकलित करने वाले पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल का नाम पर अहरौरा थाने में दिनांक 31 अगस्त 2019 को 21:35 बजे एक मुकदमा अ. स. 0130/2019 भादसं 1860 की धारा 120-बी, 186, 193 व 420 के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत करवा दिया। घटना के 9 दिन बाद उक्त मामलें में प्रधान प्रतिनिधि व पत्रकार के विरुद्ध प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट दर्ज करवाई गई। उक्त मामले की तहरीर में कहा गया कि नमक रोटी बांटने की साजिश प्रधान प्रतिनिधि व पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल द्वारा की गई और जानबूझकर केवल नमक रोटी बांटने का वीडियो बनाकर सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल किया गया। अहरौरा थाने में एफ आई आर दर्ज किये जाने के बाद प्रधान प्रतिनिधि राज कुमार पाल को गिरफ्तार कर जेल भेज दिया गया।

पत्रकार पर गंभीर धाराओं में मुकदमा दर्ज होने की खबर जैसे ही जिले के अन्य पत्रकारों को मिली तो उन्होंने पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल के उत्पीड़न की खबरें प्रसारित कीं जिस पर माननीय अध्यक्ष, भारतीय प्रेस परिषद ने दो सदस्यीय फ़ैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी को मीरजापुर भेजने

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का निर्देश जारी किया और श्री रजाहुसैन रिवाजी को संयोजक व श्याम सिंह पंवार को उक्त प्रकरण की सच्चाई पता लगाने के लिये नामित किया गया। उक्त निर्देश पाते ही दो सदस्यीय फैक्ट फाइंडिंग कमेटी के हम दोनों सदस्य दिनांक 13 सितम्बर 2019 को मीरजापुर पहुंचे और मामले की वास्तविकता जानने के लिये पीड़ित पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल व अन्य स्थानीय पत्रकारों से सम्पर्क किया। वहां के कई पत्रकारों ने होटल कोणार्क आकर बताया कि नमक रोटी बांटने की घटना सही है। इसके बाद 13 सितम्बर 7 शाम पीड़ित पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल भी मीरजापुर स्थित होटल कोणार्क में आये और पूरे घटना क्रम से हम दोनों को अवगत कराया और गुहार लगाई कि मेरे साथ अन्याय किया जा रहा है, मुझे न्याय दिलवाया जाये।

मीरजापुर जनपद के अहरौरा थानान्तर्गत पट्टी कला निवासी पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल पुत्र श्री रामलखन जायसवाल ने बताया कि मैं जन संदेश टाइम्स समाचार पत्र में बिगत ढाई वर्ष से क्षेत्रीय पत्रकार व छायाकार के रूप में कार्य करते हुए समाचारों का संकलन कर संस्थान को भेजता हूँ और मेरी खबरों को प्रकाशित किया जाता है।

श्री जायसवाल ने बताया कि बिगत 22 अगस्त 2019 को मैं अपने घर पर था। लगभग सुबह 10:57 पर मुझे ग्राम प्रधान के प्रतिनिधि राज कुमार पाल ने मोबाइल से सूचना दी कि शिऊर प्राथमिक विद्यालय में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों को भोजन सही नहीं दिया जा रहा है। यहाँ कभी नमक रोटी दिया जा रहा है तो कभी बच्चों को फल आदि नहीं दिया जाता है। आये दिन की अनियमितता से हम लोग परेशान हैं। यह बात सुनते ही मैंने मामले को राज कुमार पाल से पूँछा और कहा समस्या बता दो हम खबर चला देंगे लेकिन राज कुमार ने कहा कि मौके पर आइये और पूरे मामले का वीडियो बनाकर खबर चलाइये। इसके बाद मैं मौके पर जाने को तैयार हो गया लेकिन मौके पर पहुंचने से पहले मैंने इसकी सूचना खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी को 11 बजकर 53 मिनट पर मोबाइल से दी थी और इसके बाद विद्यालय पहुंच गया तो देखा कि बच्चे थाली लिये बैठे हैं और कुछ लाइन में खड़े हैं।

पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल के मुताबिक, एक तरफ बाल्टी में रखी रोटियों को रसोइयां बनाने वाली उठाती हैं और बच्चों की थाली में दो-दो रोटी रखने लगती हैं और जिन बच्चों के हाथ में थाली नहीं थी उनके हाथ में ही रोटियां पकड़ाते हुए आगे बढ़ जाती हैं। वहीं दूसरी रसोइया बनाने वाली एक-एक चुटकी नमक रखती चली जा रही है। यह सभी वीडियो मैंने अपने मोबाइल से बनाये इस दौरान वहां मौजूद सभी लोग कौतूहल से देखने लगते हैं किन्तु मैं अपना कार्य करता रहा हूँ। इसके बाद मैं शिक्षा मित्र शान्ती देवी के पास पहुंचता हूँ और बच्चों को दिये जा रहे नमक रोटी पर सवाल जवाब करता हूँ तो वह बताती है कि इसमें मेरा कोई कसूर नहीं है। मिड-डे-मील की जिम्मेदारी मुरारी अध्यापक व अरविन्द्र त्रिपाठी की है। नमक रोटी बांटने की बात स्वीकारते हुए शिक्षा मित्र ने कहा जो था वह बांटा गया।

पवन ने बताया कि नमक रोटी बांटने की खबर चलाने के पीछे उसकी यह मंशा नहीं थी कि जिला प्रशासन की छवि खराब हो बल्कि उसने बताया कि उसका उद्देश्य था कि मिड-डे-मील में किये जा रहे भ्रष्टाचार से जिला प्रशासन अवगत हो। लेकिन जिला प्रशासन ने उल्टे मेरे खिलाफ ही एफ आई आर दर्ज करवा दी।

पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल से वार्ता करने के दूसरे दिन यानीकि 14 सितम्बर 2019 को हम दोनों सदस्य प्राथमिक विद्यालय शिऊर 11:36 बजे पहुंचे और वहां पर मौजूद रसोइयां में काम करने वाली रुक्मिणी व ममता से जानकारी की तो उन्होंने भी नमक-रोटी बांटने की बात स्वीकार की और बताया कि उस दिन यानीकि 22 अगस्त को इसके अलावा बच्चों के लिए मिड-डे-मील में देने के लिए कुछ और था ही नहीं, इसी लिए सिर्फ नमक रोटी बांटी। जब

उनसे पूछा कि पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल को किसने बुलाया तो उन्होंने बताया कि यह मुझे नहीं पता लेकिन पत्रकार आये थे और जो वीडियो बनाया था वह सही था। दोनों रसोइया कार्यकर्त्रियों ने यह भी स्वीकार किया कि मिड-डे-मील में कई बार ऐसा हो चुका है कि जो चीज बंटनी चाहिये थी वो नहीं बंटती थी। विद्यालय में बेचनी नामक महिला सहित अन्य स्थानीय निवासियों ने भी आकर बताया यह कोई पहली घटना नहीं है कई बार ऐसा हो चुका है कि निर्धारित वस्तुयें मिड-डे-मील में नहीं दी गई। यह तक बताया कि 2 लीटर दूध को पानी मिलाकर 100 बच्चों में बांटा गया।

पत्रकार को जो मौके पर दिखा उसने वही लिखा व बताया, इसके अलावा ए एन आई न्यूज एजेन्सी के नीरज सिंह को बताया व बनाया गया वीडियो दिया। यह बात खुद नीरज सिंह ने बताई थी कि मैंने जिला अधिकारी को नमक रोटी बांटने वाले वीडियो को दिखाया था। वीडियो को देखने के बाद जिला अधिकारी ने मामले की जांच करवाने की बात कही थी।

विद्यालय से हटाये गये स0 अ0 मुरारी मौर्या पुत्र कमाण्डर से जब हम लोगों ने इस मामले की जानकारी ली तो उसने बताया कि नमक रोटी बांटवाने की बात सही है लेकिन उस दिन प्रधान प्रतिनिधि ने जानबूझकर नमक रोटी बांटवाई। उसने बताया कि सब्जी विक्रेता अशोक की दुकान से सब्जी आती थी वहां पर तीन सौ रुपये जमा थे लेकिन राज कुमार पाल दुकान से सब्जी नहीं लाये बल्कि नमक रोटी मेरी गैर मौजूदगी में बांटवा दिया और पत्रकार को बुलाकर खबर बनवा दी। मुरारी ने बताया कि वह दो विद्यालयों में कार्यभार संभाले हैं। मिड-डे-मील व अन्य सामग्री मेरी देख रेख में ही बंटती थी लेकिन उस दिन मेरी गैर मौजूदगी में मिड-डे-मील के अन्तर्गत नमक रोटी राज कुमार के कहने पर बांट दी गई।

मुरारी ने यह भी बताया कि मिड-डे-मील में सोमवार को फल, मंगलवार को चावल-दाल, बुधवार को दूध-तहरी, गुरुवार को रोटी व सब्जीयुक्त दाल, शुक्रवार को तहरी व शनिवार को चावल-सब्जी दिया जाता है।

14 सितम्बर 2019 को ही समय 2 बजकर 20 मिनट पर हम दोनों सदस्य शिक्षा मित्र शान्ती देवी से अहमौरा क्षेत्र में ही सोनभद्र हाइवे के किनारे मिले और नमक रोटी बांटने के बावत बात की तो उसने भी बताया कि 22 अगस्त को बच्चों को मिड-डे-मील में नमक रोटी बांटी गई। लेकिन मौके पर पवन कैसे आये इस बारे में कोई जानकारी होने से उसने इन्कार किया। शिक्षा मित्र ने यह जरूर बताया कि उसे वहीं के लोगों से पता चला था कि पत्रकार को प्रधान प्रतिनिधि राज कुमार पाल ने बुलाया था। उसने यह भी बताया कि राज कुमार पाल कई बार उसे धमकी दे चुके थे कि तुम्हें सबक सिखाना है।

14 सितम्बर को शाम 6:15 बजे जिला अधिकारी अनुराग पटेल व अपर जिला अधिकारी यू पी सिंह होटल कोणार्क आये। इस दौरान जब जिला अधिकारी से नमक रोटी प्रकरण पर पत्रकार के विरुद्ध एफ आई आर दर्ज करवाने के बावत हम दोनों सदस्यों ने जानकारी की तो उन्होंने भी अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से ही सही लेकिन यह बताया कि पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल ने जो खबर चलाई थी वो सही थी लेकिन पत्रकार पवन को खबर चलाने से पहले मुझसे पूछना चाहिये था, लेकिन उसने ऐसा नहीं किया और प्रधान प्रतिनिधि के कहने पर नमक रोटी बांटने का सुनियोजित वीडियो बनाकर खबर चलाई। इससे जिला प्रशासन की छवि खराब हुई। मेरे अच्छे कार्यों को दरकिनार कर दिया गया और एक मामले को इतना फैला दिया गया जिससे कि मेरे सभी अच्छे कार्य धूमिल हो गये। जिला अधिकारी ने इस मौके पर बताया कि उन्होंने कई स्कूलों में जाकर खुद पढ़ाने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की और अपने जिले के कई अधिकारियों को भी स्कूलों में पढ़ाई के लिये बराबर भेजते रहते हैं। कई तालाबों से जलकुम्भी हटाने के लिए साफ-सफाई

का अभियान चलाया। लेकिन यह सब काम पीछे हो गये और नमक रोटी कांड ने जिला प्रशासन के अच्छे कार्यों को बदनाम करने व जिला प्रशासन की छवि को खराब करने में कोई कोर कसर बांकी नहीं रखी।

—:निष्कर्ष:—

प्राथमिक विद्यालय में छात्र-छात्राओं को मिड-डे-मील में नमक रोटी 22 अगस्त 2019 को बांटी गई और उसकी खबर चलाने के उद्देश्य से पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल को विद्यालय में बुलाकर वीडियो बनवाया गया। नमक-रोटी बांटने की संभावना के बारे में प्रधान प्रतिनिधि को जानकारी पहले से थी और उसे विश्वास था कि आज और कुछ बांटने के लिए रसोई में नहीं है। इसी लिये उसने अपने परिचित पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल को विद्यालय बुलाया और वीडियो बनवाकर खबर चलाने पर जोर दिया। पवन ने नमक रोटी बांटने का वीडियो बनाकर सोशल साइट्स पर प्रसारित करने के साथ ही अपने संस्थान में खबर भेजी जो प्रकाशित की गई। इससे जिला प्रशासन की किरकिरी होने लगी और इसपर पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल, प्रधान प्रतिनिधि व एक अज्ञात के खिलाफ अहरौरा थाना में मामला संज्ञेय धाराओं में दर्ज करवाया गया।

स्थानीय लोगों से बात करने पर यह तो तथ्य प्रकाश में आया कि प्रधान प्रतिनिधि राज कुमार पाल के बुलाने पर पवन जायसवाल ने मौके पर पहुंच कर नमक रोटी बांटने का वीडियो बनाया और वीडियो को सोशल साइट्स पर वायरल किया और अपने संस्थान जन संदेश टाइम्स में खबर भेजी जिसे प्रकाशित किया गया। पवन ने बनाया हुआ वीडियो ए एन आई के पत्रकार नीरज सिंह को भी दिया, लेकिन नमक रोटी बांटवाने में पत्रकार पवन की खुद की भूमिका नहीं मिली बल्कि नमक-रोटी बांटने की खबर प्रकाशित होने पर जिला प्रशासन की किरकिरी चारों तरफ होने लगी, इसी लिए पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल को भी नमक रोटी बांटने में षडयंत्र रचने में आरोपी बनाते हुए खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी ने मुकदमें में पत्रकार पवन जायसवाल का नाम लिखवाया।

रिपोर्ट सेवा में सादर प्रेषित।

दिनांक.....



रजा हुसैन रिजवी



श्याम सिंह पंवार

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

S. No. 3

File no. 13/145/Suo-Motu/19-20-PCI

Suo-Motu cognizance with respect to murder of Shri K. Satyanarayana, Journalist, Andhra Jyothi.

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

The Secretariat of the Council has received an email dated 16.10.2019 from Former Members, present Member, PCI and the President, Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) regarding murder of Shri K. Satyanarayana, Correspondent, Andhra Jyoti, Daily Telugu Newspaper.

While drawing the attention of the Council, they submitted that Shri K. Satyanarayana was hacked to death on 15th October, 2019 at S Annavaram village which is 90 km far from Visakhapatnam. Unidentified assailants waylaid him about 100 meters from his house at 7 pm and hacked him. According to Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists, Shri Satyanarayana filed a complaint in Police Station concerned on 10th September that he had received death threats from land and mining mafia. The matter was brought to the notice of Superintendent of Police, East Godavari District by the APUWJ. The Superintendent of Police at that time assured them to look into the matter and do the needful. It is clear he was killed for his reportage exposing the illegal activities of the mafia. The journalists in Andhra Pradesh are very much agitated over the gruesome murder. They have requested the Council to take suo-motu cognizance of the brutal murder of Shri K. Satyanarayana.

Shri Laxman Uppala, Former Member, PCI and the President, National Union of Journalists (India) vide email dated 16.10.2019 have informed the Council that the Journalist, Shri Satyanarayana had filed several stories against anti-social elements, and had been getting threats since September, 2019. He went to the Police Station and had informed Police about the threat two weeks back, but the Police took no action.

The Council took Suo-Motu cognizance of the matter and issued Notice for Statement in Reply to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, The Secretary (Home) Department, The Director General of Police and the Superintendent of Police, Vijayawada on 17.10.2019.

Communication dated 7.11.2019 received from Journalist's wife

Smt. Katha Kumari, deceased's wife vide letter dated 7.11.2019 submitted that her husband was murdered by some unknown persons on 15.10.2019 and on that date her brother in law filed a complaint as a defacto-complainant to the Tuni Rural Police Station. She suspects that some persons including Local MLA, Shri Dadiseti Ramalingeswara Rao were the conspirator of the murder of her husband.

Her husband had been working with Andhra Jyoti, Daily Telugu Newspaper for last 20 years. She further submitted that her husband regularly used to write news articles regarding the schemes involved by the said MLA, like sand mafia, illegal gold business, and also about the criminal cases numbering in 15 pending cases against him.

The Police took the cognizance of the complaint and investigated the case, but unfortunately the investigation was not done properly and they modified the entire case by the influence of ruling party. She has requested the Council to investigate the matter by CBI or any independent investigating agency for proper investigation.

Reply filed by the Director General of Police

The Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh vide reply dated 12.11.2019 submitted that on 15.10.2019, the deceased left his house from S.Annavaram, visited his fields at T.Venkatapuram village and attended agricultural work and after completion of work in the fields, he left from the fields on his motor cycle.

At about 6:30 pm when the deceased reached Lakshmi Devi tank near Goddess Maridamma Temple, near the house of Jogu Lakshmi at S.Annavaram on his motor cycle, unknown assailants waylaid him and inflicted severe bleeding head injuries causing his instantaneous death.

Further deceased's brother presented a Written Report to the Sub-Inspector of Police, Tuni Rural Police Station at the scene of offence itself with the allegations that the deceased is a sympathizer of TDP Party and Shri Dadiseti Raja, MLA, Tuni openly proclaimed before other news reporters that he would not leave the deceased. The Sub Inspector was further informed by the deceased's brother that there was threat perception to his brother due to political rivalry and on 10.9.2019 night at about 8 pm an attempt was made against his brother's life. The deceased's brother suspected MLA Shri Dadiseti Raja that he got killed his brother through his men.

The Police investigation divulged that the alleged suspected MLA was in Europe Tour at the relevant time of offence in this case. One of the alleged accomplices of the MLA i.e. Shri Raju Babu was at Srungavruksham village of Thondangi Mandal at the relevant time of offence. All the suspects were verified but yielded no results.

On 29.10.2019 at 6 am, Shri Vangalapudi Gowri Venkata Ramana voluntarily surrendered before Shri Dasarai Krishna Babu, Village Revenue Officer of S.Annavaram village together with a knife used in the committing the murder of the deceased in this case and confessed this offence.

The deceased being the reporter of Andhra Jyothi while working in the Tuni Town, Tuni Rural harassed Shri Vangalapudi Gowri Venkata Ramana and extorted money to a tune of Rs. 2 lakh on two different occasion. The deceased had told him that he did not pay the money he would get a Rowdy Sheet open against him through the Police by using the influence.

Arrest of Shri Vangalapudi Gowri Venkata Ramana led to the arrest of remaining accused and seizures of material objects, weapons, Cell phones and motorcycles used in commission of offence. All the accused were sent for remand and they were remanded up to 11-11.2019. One of the accused, Shri Madagala Dorababu is still absconding and efforts are underway to apprehend him soon.

The Reports state that the motive behind the murder is personal grudge of Shri Vangalapudi Gowri Venkata Ramana against the deceased. Shri Gowri felt insulted, cheated and victimised. He was forced to sell his petty shop to pay Rs. 2 lakh to deceased. Further investigation also revealed that this murder has nothing to do with the deceased's journalism profession. The deceased would behave in a highhanded manner. He had made wrongful and illegal gains by using his position. He would threaten people and extort money.

Communication received from Shri Ramesh Chand Jain, Secretary, National Union of Journalists

Shri Ramesh Chand Jain, Secretary, National Union of Journalists has filed his submissions in the matter at the time of hearing held on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj. He submitted that the Report filed by the Andhra Police in the matter is not acceptable. The Police are deliberately not taking action in the matter. He further submitted that as per Police Report if the deceased journalist used to blackmail people why Police did not take action against him. He has requested to constitute a Committee to investigate the matter.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Ashok Malik, National Union of Journalists appeared before the Inquiry Committee.

The murder of Shri K Satyanarayana, a Journalist is the subject matter of this suo motu inquiry. The Inquiry Committee has heard Shri K Kishore Babu, Inspector of Police and Shri A. Srinivas Rao, Deputy Superintendent of Police appearing on behalf of the respondent. The Director General of Police in his Report dated 12.11.2019 has submitted that motive behind the murder of the journalist, Shri K Satyanarayana was a personal grudge against the accused, Vangalapudi Gowri Venkata Ramana. He has further stated that investigation disclosed that all the accused are close friends and conspired together to commit the murder of the deceased to avenge the personal vengeance of aforesaid accused, Gowri. In the Report, the Director General of Police has further stated that further investigation revealed that the murder had nothing to do with the deceased journalist's profession.

Nothing has been pointed out nor there is any material on record to take a contrary view. It be noted that the deceased was not murdered on account of his profession.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for dropping the proceedings.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to drop the proceedings in the matter.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

S.No. 4

F.No. 13/201/18-19

Complainant

Shri Om Prakash Dohre,
Journalist,
Hamirpur (U.P.)

Respondent

Shri Umashankar Mishra,
Hamirpur (U.P.)

Shri Arun Srivastava,
Hamirpur (U.P.)

Shri Asad Khan,
Hamirpur (U.P.)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

Facts

This complaint dated 18.02.2019 has been filed by Shri Om Prakash Dohre, Journalist, Hamirpur (U.P.) against S/Shri Umashankar Mishra, Arun Srivastava and Asad Khan, Journalists for allegedly having disproportionate income.

According to the complainant, currently illegal Morang mining is going on in which some journalists are getting stake. He also stated that, everyone without any standard and education is calling himself a journalist. The complainant has stated that the Morang mining mafia distributed money to the journalists of big news channels and newspapers. In this context, (i) Shri Umashankar Mishra, Stringer (Correspondent), GNews18/ETV (ii) Shri Arun Srivastav, Correspondent, Samachar Plus and (iii) Shri Asad Khan, Correspondent of Bharat Samachar earned huge money illegally, which tarnished the image of the journalism. The complainant has alleged that the respondents have licensed revolver and they often threaten small journalists. The complainant has informed that a secret letter was sent to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police in the matter, however, no action was taken and therefore he wrote to the Deputy Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner, Chitrakoot Dham, Banda but there has been no action in the matter. While giving detail of the properties earned by the respondents, the complainant has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for comments were issued to the respondents-S/Shri Umashankar Mishra, Arun Srivastava and Asad Khan on 6.6.2019.

Comments of Shri Asad Khan

Shri Asad Khan vide his comments dated 20.6.2019 while denying the allegation has stated that the complainant levelled false and fabricated allegation against him maliciously. The respondent has further stated that the immovable properties as mentioned in the complaint belong to his mother and sister and he only owns a truck, a Scorpio car and a tractor, which have been purchased on loan. The respondent has submitted that the complainant filed similar complaint before the

DIG and after investigation the allegation found to be fabricated and filed with malafide intention. The respondent has produced a copy of the Investigation Report of Sub-Inspector, Police Station Kotwali, Hamirpur. He has requested the Council to dismiss the complaint.

Comments of Shri Umashankar Mishra

Shri Umashankar Mishra vide his comments dated 15.07.2019 stated that the complaint is totally false, baseless and filed with malafide intention. The respondent further stated that the complainant earlier also filed similar complaints before the district and police administration but the same were rejected being false and baseless. According to the respondent, the complainant is habitual in filing complaints against the registered and respected journalists and tarnishes their image. The complainant does not currently have any newspaper or news channel. He only practices journalism through YouTube and WhatsApp and he is malicious towards the registered journalist. Denying the allegation of huge immovable and movable property, the respondent has stated that before journalism he had taken a government plot of 31 metres for only Rs. 37,000/- in the year 2008. He has also 10 Bighas ancestral agricultural land and he earned about Rs. 3 lakhs every year including his wife's salary and also paid income tax. With regard to licensed revolver, the respondent stated that he collects news from the forests, therefore, the District Magistrate has issued him license in 2012. He has requested the Council to dismiss the complaint.

Further communication from complainant

The complainant vide his further communication dated 19.08.2019 while reiterating his complaint has alleged that the respondents acquired huge properties by illegal extortion under the garb of journalism by not reporting/telecasting the news of illegal mining. The complainant has informed that many cases are pending against the illegal mining mafia and a CBI enquiry is being conducted in the matter on the order of Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, but the Investigating Officer/SI, Ms. Sangeeta Yadav, Police Station Sadar Kotwali, Hamirpur is under influence of these journalists filed a false Investigation Report. The complainant further stated that the respondents do not receive any honorarium from their news channels and newspapers, yet they have movable and immovable assets worth crores of rupees accumulated in the last five years. He has requested the Council to investigate the matter through an independent investigating agency.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Om Prakash Dohre, complainant and Shri Umashankar Mishra, and Shri Asad Khan, respondents appeared in person.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant as also the respondent and does not find merit in the grievance of the complainant and accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Inquiry Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

Press Council of India

S. No. 5

F.No.13/218/18-19-PCI.

Complainant

Shri Sohan Singh,
District Correspondent,
Dainik Adab Times,
Basti (U.P.).

Respondent

Shri Rajshekhar,
District Magistrate,
Basti (U.P.).

Shri Murlidhar Singh,
Deputy Director Information,
Basti (U.P.)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 22.3.2019 has been filed by Shri Sohan Singh, District Correspondent, Dainik Adab Times, Basti (U.P.) against Shri Murlidhar Singh, Deputy Director Information, Basti alleging non-renewal of his accreditation card.

According to the complainant, he applied long before on February 28, 2019 for renewal of accreditation card complying with all formalities, but the said card was not issued by the Information Department, while other selected journalists were issued cards on time. He complained in this regard to the District Magistrate, Basti but to no avail. The complainant stated that he is facing difficulties in collection of news in the absence of accreditation card.

The complainant addressed a letter dated 13.4.2019 to the Deputy Director Information, Basti stating that he received a letter dated 27.3.2019 from the Department of Information, Basti Division intimating that his accreditation card could not be renewed due to non-compliance of the formalities. The complainant further stated that the letter dated 27.3.2019 issued by the Information Department, Basti was received by him on 12.4.2019. The complainant informed that neither the said letter was issued officially nor any receiving of the same was made. In fact, it was kept in a shop, which he received through someone else on 12.4.2019. The complainant pointed out that if the formalities for renewal of accreditation were not completed, this should have been conveyed to him timely so that the remaining formalities could be fulfilled on time, but it was not done. The complainant stated that his rights were intentionally violated and due to non-renewal of accreditation card, he faced problem in collection of news and had to undergo mental torture.

The complainant addressed a letter dated 29.4.2019 to the respondent-Deputy Director Information, Basti intimating that he again applied for renewal of accreditation card complying with all formalities on 13.4.2019 but no action was taken, therefore, he would face problem in collection of news during Lok Sabha Election.

The complainant alleged that the respondent-Deputy Director Information, Basti is acting arbitrarily and adopting discriminatory attitude in issuance of accreditation card due to which his journalistic interest is being affected.

Vide Council's letter dated 13.5.2019, the Deputy Director Information, Basti was requested to file action taken report in the matter.

Reply of the Deputy Director Information, Basti

The Deputy Director Information, Basti vide his reply dated 24.5.2019 informed that the complainant was requested vide their department's letter dated 16.4.2019 to provide salary certificate and DAVP rate contract but the complainant did not provide the same, while salary certificate is mandatory for accreditation under Working Journalist Act, 1955. The respondent further stated that the complainant has provided only agreement certificate instead of salary certificate. The respondent also stated that the complainant has no knowledge about Urdu.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the District Magistrate, Basti and Shri Murlidhar Singh, Deputy Director Information, Basti on 22.6.2019.

Reply of the Assistant Director Information, Basti

The Assistant Director Information, Basti vide his reply dated 12.7.2019 informed that the complainant was requested by the Department's letter dated 27.3.2019 to provide salary certificate, authority letter and DAVP rate of the newspaper, but the complainant provided only authority letter dated 13.4.2019 wherein the Editor of Dainik Adab Times mentioned that the complainant will not take salary and will work as per previous agreement whereas, as per Working Journalist Act, 1955, an accredited journalist is required to be a salaried journalist. The respondent also stated that their office did not receive copies of the newspaper 'Adab Times' for the last one year, due to which complainant's newspaper could not be inspected/considered. It is therefore not clear whether the complainant sends any news for publication to the newspaper. The respondent stated that the salary certificate has not been submitted by the complainant till date. The respondent further stated that the allegations levelled by the complainant is malicious and baseless and therefore, liable to be dismissed.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Sohan Singh, complainant appeared in person.

Shri Anjuman Naqvi, Deputy Director and Sanrakshak, Mr. Amresh Kumar state that the accreditation card of the complainant for the year 2020 shall be renewed by 31st of January 2020.

In view of the aforesaid assurance, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further. After the renewal of accreditation card, the respondent shall furnish that information to the Secretariat of the Council.

The Inquiry Committee recommends for disposal of the complaint in the aforesaid terms.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint in wake of Assurance given by the Respondent authority.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sl.No. 6

F.No.13/202/18-19/PCI

Complainant

Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta,
Dy.Editor, Maya Awadh,
Rashtriya Masik Patrika,
Hardoi,
Uttar Pradesh

Respondent

Shri Pulkit Khare,
District Magistrate,
Hardoi

Shri Mahender Kumar,
Additional Information Officer,
Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh

Smt. Kumkum Sharma,
Assistant Information Director,
Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 26.2.2019 has been filed by Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta, Dy. Editor, Maya Awadh, Rashtriya Masik Patrika against the District Information office, Hardoi, U.P. alleging no issuance of Press Pass to him to cover Govt. function.

The complainant submitted that on 26.2.2019 the Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath was to inaugurate Govt. Medical College, wherein Press Passes were to be issued by the District Administration and District Information office, Goradanda, Hardoi, U.P. Following that, the Information Office asked all the reporters of the district to submit photo and appointment letter issued by the Institution for the issuance of Press Pass. The complainant submitted that he along with all the reporters had fulfilled all the requirements but when he reached the Office to collect Press Pass on 26.2.2019, Shri Mahender Kumar Yadav, Additional Information Officer informed him that in pursuance of District Magistrate, Shri Pulkit Khare's direction, they cannot issue Press Pass to Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly newspapers.

The complainant further submitted that the action taken by the authorities in issuing Press Pass discriminately and not considering reporters of newspapers other than daily is an act to weaken the fourth pillar of the country. He has requested the Council to take action against the authorities.

Show Cause Notices were issued to Shri Pulkit Khare, District Magistrate along with Shri Mahender Kumar, Additional Information Officer and Smt. Kumkum Sharma, Assistant Information Director to file their reply in the matter on 2.5.2019.

Written Statement

Shri Pulkit Khare, District Magistrate along with Shri Mahender Kumar, Additional Information Officer and Smt. Kumkum Sharma, Assistant Information Director vide their joint Written Statement dated 16.5.2019, submitted that on 26.2.2019, the Chief Minister, U.P. inaugurated the Govt. Medical College and also addressed people for which there was no need of any Press Pass. For security reasons of VIPs, Press Passes were issued in limited numbers. None of the officers had told the complainant that in pursuance of District Magistrate, Shri Pulkit Khare's direction, Press Passes were not issued to Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly newspapers. They have further stated that the Press Pass of the complainant was ready but he did not come to collect it. They have submitted that sometimes, on the direction of Security agencies, limited numbers of Reporters are allowed to sit in "D" close to very V.I.P. persons. The respondents have refuted the allegations levelled against them.

Counter Comments

Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta, complainant vide Counter Comments dated 24.6.2019 while referring to Written Statement submitted that the respondents have given contradictory statement. On one hand, the respondents have stated that there was no need of any Press Pass to cover the program of Chief Minister, while on the other hand, they stated that only limited numbers of Press Pass were given to sit near "D" keeping in view of the directions of the security agencies. It shows that the security of the VIPs remained intact by giving Press Pass to certain reporters while there seemed to have been danger to the life of VIPs from reporters who did not receive the Press Pass. This is double standards of the authorities. The complainant further submitted that when there was no need of Press Pass for that particular event why the authorities asked the reporters to submit the required documents. The complainant submitted that as per written statement if the authorities had his Press Pass ready why it was not sent to him through email.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. There was no appearance on behalf of the complainant, however, Shri Vishnu Dutt Mishra, Naib Tehsildar and Shri Mahendra Kumar, Additional District Information Officer appeared before the Inquiry Committee.

The Notice sent to the complainant has been returned with the note that "**he is dead**".

In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further and recommends for disposal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

S.No. 7

File No.13/205/18-19-PCI

Complainant

Shri Pushkar Vajpayee,
Division In-Charge,
Dainik Tarun Mitra
Kanpur,
Uttar Pradesh-208012

Respondents

The Deputy Director,
Information,
Office of District Information,
Raambagh, Phoolbagh, Kanpur,
Uttar Pradesh-208001

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

Shri Pushkar Vajpayee, Division In-Charge, Dainik Tarun Mitra, Raambagh, Kanpur, U.P. has filed this complaint on March 07, 2019 against Shri P.K.Singh, Deputy Director, Information, Office of District Information, Kanpur allegedly for not issuing press pass and misbehaving with him.

The complainant submitted that in order to cover public meeting held at Nirala Nagar, Kanpur, he had applied for the Press Pass. When he contacted at District Information office, Phoolbag, Kanpur in this regard, Shri P.K. Singh, Dy. Director of Information misbehaved with him and refused to issue Press Pass.

The complainant has stated that the Department of Information, Kanpur has adopted double standards for the editors and journalists of Kanpur. The officers of Information Department, Kanpur issue passes only to known or familiar editors of some newspapers, instead of all editors of newspapers of Kanpur. Similarly, the Department issues Press Pass to certain numbers of reporters while other reporters are deprived of the right to cover various programmes. He has requested the Council to take action against the respondent.

Notice for Statement in Reply was issued to the respondent on 20.5.2019.

Written Statement of Shri P.K. Singh, Deputy Director Information

Shri P.K. Singh, Deputy Director, Information, Office of District Information, Kanpur Nagar vide letter dated June 04, 2019 has stated that while large numbers of journalists of print media and electronic media are working in the district of Kanpur, however in pursuance of the District Administration's direction, they could issue only 126 passes to print media and electronic media. He further stated that during Hon'ble Prime Minister's scheduled programme at Kanpur, there was also shortage of passes and they could not issue pass to all the media persons. But when Lok Sabha General Election programme was held, they issued 300 passes to the editors and journalists of print and electronic media including Shri Pushkar Vajpayee. The respondent has stated that the allegations made by the complainant are concocted and fabricated as neither the complainant came to his office nor he contacted him ever.

The respondent also stated that the circulation of Hindi Dainik Tarun Mitra Newspaper in the District/Kanpur Division is very less. He further stated that the Press Passes are issued during the visit of V.I.P.s without any discrimination. Sometimes, being the reporters applying in large numbers, they have to face difficulty while issuing the Press Pass.

Further response from the respondent

Shri P.K.Singh, vide letter dated August 13, 2019 stated that the complainant despite making complaint in the Council has made several complaints in other Departments in order to pressurise him, which is causing disturbance in his working.

Further response from the complainant

The complainant vide letter dated 17.12.2019 denied the allegation of the respondent that neither the complainant came to his office nor he contacted him (respondent) ever for Hon'ble Prime Minister's scheduled programme at Kanpur. In this regard, he informed that a letter dated 06.03.2019 was sent by him to the District Magistrate for coverage on 8.3.2019 of the scheduled programme and also he has met the Dy. Director (Information). However, Shri P.K. Singh misbehaved with him and deprived him from the said coverage; even he said that these are the routine rallies and will be crowded, so it is not appropriate for the complainant to go there. Although a large number of media persons were present there. He requested to take action on the protection of the welfare of the journalist.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

Despite service of Notice, the complainant has not chosen to appear. The respondent, Deputy Director of Information, Mr. P.K. Singh is present. The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint and the written statement filed by the respondent. The grievance of the complainant is that he was not given the Press Pass during the visit of the Prime Minister to Kanpur. Mr. Singh submits that for the visit of the Prime Minister, the District Administration has decided to issue only 126 passes. He states that the passes are given based on the circulation and TRP of the newspaper, to which the journalist belongs. He submits that because of the limited number of passes, it was not given to the complainant.

The Inquiry Committee is of the opinion that the grievance made by the complainant is misconceived and accordingly recommends it to be rejected. It accordingly, recommends, for dismissal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

Press Council of India

Sl.No. 8

F.No.13/191/18-19-PCI

Complainant

Shri Aamir Solanki,
Correspondent,
Alert Team,
Kanpur City (U.P.)

Respondent

The Regional Transport Officer,
Regional Transport Office,
Kanpur (U.P.)

Shri Lalit Kumar,
Regional Inspector,
Regional Transport Office,
Kanpur (U.P.)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 31.1.2019 has been filed by Shri Aamir Solanki, Correspondent, Alert Team, Kanpur City (U.P.) against Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector, Regional Transport Office, Kanpur (U.P.) for allegedly misbehaving and threatening the complainant to implicate him in false cases due to publication of critical writings.

According to the complainant, he published news related to corruption prevailing in the Regional Transport Office. Annoyed with this, the respondent-Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector, Regional Transport Office (RTO), Kanpur created hurdle in collection of news several times and also threatened to implicate him in false cases. The complainant has further stated that on 28.1.2019, he was abused by the respondent and his staff when he took a picture of the respondent-Shri Lalit Kumar while he was taking bribe. He has requested the Council to take action against the respondent so that the freedom of the press could not be affected.

Notice for Comments was issued to Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector, Regional Transport Office, Kanpur on 14.5.2019. Simultaneously the Regional Transport Officer, Kanpur was also requested to file report in the matter.

Comments of Shri Lalit Kumar

Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector, Regional Transport Office, Kanpur vide his comments dated 27.5.2019 while denying the allegations levelled in the complaint has stated that the complainant, Shri Aamir Solanki and his editor, Shri K.K.Sahu regularly come to the office and pressurize him to issue the driving license without passing driving test under due process and on not succumbing to pressure, they threatened to file false complaints against him. In this context, they (the complainant) published false, baseless and concocted news items in their newspaper with a view to settle score. According to the respondent, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (Administration) was apprised about their activities but despite that there was no change in their behaviour. On the contrary, they threatened to implicate him (the respondent) in false case under Section-308 in the room of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (Administration). The respondent has stated that the complainant levelled false allegation of abusing, misbehaving and snatching memory card of his camera on 28.1.2019. The respondent has further stated that they both came to him that day and pressurized for issuing the driving license and on denying, they filed false complaint. While producing copies of

some applications for licenses submitted by the complainant, the respondent also stated that a senior journalist, Shri Neeraj Maheswari was present there on the day of the incident. While providing a copy of the statement of Shri Neeraj Maheswari the respondent has requested the Council to take necessary action against both the journalists.

A copy of the comments of the respondent was forwarded to the complainant on 10.6.2019.

Counter Comments

The complainant in his counter comments dated 27.6.2019 while referring to the statement regarding license applications in the written statement has denied any signature by him on any driving license application. He has stated that the respondent with a view to hide the truth has taken help of false documents as well as statement of a journalist. The complainant further stated that the journalist, Mr. Neeraj Maheshwari was not present at the time of incident. The complainant has also stated that he has neither recommended nor referred anyone to get the driving license.

A copy of the counter comments of the complainant was forwarded to the respondent on 10.7.2019.

Further communication from complainant

The complainant vide his further communication dated 6.7.2019 stated that the respondent sent a letter of a journalist, Shri Neeraj Maheshwari along with his reply with a view to prove the allegation baseless which is completely false. The complainant further stated that Shri Neeraj Maheshwari has given the said letter in favour of the respondent under pressure of Editor of Prabhat News, Shri Rajesh Maheshwari. The complainant has also stated that the respondent and Shri Rajesh Maheshwari have a friendly relationship, and therefore he managed to get the evidence in this regard.

A copy of the communication received from the complainant was forwarded to the respondent on 17.7.2019.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The complainant and the respondent Shri Lalit Kumar were present in person before the Committee.

The complainant, Shri Aamir Solanki claims to be the Correspondent of Alert Team and his allegation is that while he had gone to collect the news at the Regional Transport Office, Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector misbehaved with him. Shri Lalit Kumar, Regional Inspector has filed his reply denying the allegations.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant and Shri Lalit Kumar and on the basis of the materials on record, is not inclined to accept the allegation made by the complainant and accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

Press Council of India

S.No. 9

F.No.13/196/18-19/PCI

Complainant

Shri Nasir Qureshi,
Editor, Satyam News,
Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh

Respondent

Shri Rajender Dubey,
Executive Officer,
Office of Nagar Panchayat,
Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 20.2.2019 has been filed by Shri Nasir Qureshi, Editor, Satyam News against Shri Rajender Dubey, Executive Officer, Bhadohi, Nagar PanChhayat, Uttar Pradesh for allegedly misbehaving and threatening him.

The complainant submitted that on 20.2.2019, he along with a reporter went to have conversation with Shri Rajender Dubey, Executive Officer regarding cleanliness and other news collection. The complainant introduced himself to Shri Rajender Dubey. Upon hearing that he is from Satyam News, Shri Dubey started shouting at him and on being asked as to why respondent is annoyed with him, the respondent said he (complainant) would face consequences for his writings in the newspaper. The complainant further submitted that the respondent misbehaved with him and asked to leave the office. The complainant has requested the Council to take action against the respondent.

Notice for Statement in Reply was issued to the respondent on 26.4.2019 followed by reminder dated 26.7.2019.

Written Statement

The respondent, Executive Officer vide Written Statement dated 6.8.2019 has informed the Council that as he did not accede to his request, he filed a complaint before the Press Council. The respondent submitted that the other day, the complainant had visited his office advocating in the matter of one Shri Rehmat Habib who happens to be complainant's relative. The Nagar Panchayat, Gyanpur had removed the encroachment done by Shri Rehmat Habib. In this connection, the complainant visited the office of the respondent many times and threatened the officers and employees for taking action against Shri Rehmat Habib.

On 20.2.2019, when the complainant turned up to the office, the respondent asked him to make the conversation short as he had an urgent meeting pertaining to election at District Magistrate office. On that, the complainant got annoyed and threatened him that he would not let him go without having answers to his complaints. The respondent further submitted that the complainant and his accomplice warned to harass him by sending letter to his office again and again. The respondent submitted that he did not misbehave with the complainant and his accomplice. The action was initiated against Shri Rehmat Habib as per rules and guidelines. Allegations of the complainant are baseless and far from truth.

Counter Comments

The complainant vide Counter Comments dated 14.9.2019 has submitted that he had visited the respondent's office to collect news and not to support Shri Rehmat Habib. Shri Rehmat Habib is neither his relative nor belongs to his community. The respondent misled the Council by giving false statement. The complainant further claimed to have video clip as evidence which would make clear that he had visited the respondent's office only to collect news and not with some other motive. The complainant submitted that the respondent is so frustrated that he is not using the complainant's name correct in the communications and terming it as "Nasir Ahmed", while correct name is "Nasir Qureshi".

Further reply from Respondent

The respondent vide his further reply dated 21.10.2019 stated that the complainant's name was not intentionally tempered. It was clerical mistake and one Shri Kamlesh Kumar had been warned for that. As regards, animosity with the complainant, the respondent submitted that he did not even know the complainant before appointment in Nagar Panchayat office. The respondent further submitted that one Shri Majhar Shakil, Advocate filed a complaint stating that Shri Rehmat Habib had illegally constructed a Septic Tank on the outskirts of road. Subsequently, Shri Aabid, J.E. from Dy. Magistrate office and Shri Kamlesh Shrivastav, Clerk along with Police force got the encroachment removed. Owing to that, the complainant is annoyed and making false complaint before the Press Council.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

Despite service of Notice, the complainant has not chosen to appear. The respondent Shri Rajender Dubey, Executive Officer, appears in person. The Inquiry Committee has perused the complaint, the written statement and also heard the respondent. The Inquiry Committee does not find any merit in the grievance of the complainant and accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

S.No. 10

F.No.13/48/19-20/PCI

Complainant

Shri Om Prakash Bhaghel,
Editor,
Duniya Ek Nazar Mein,
Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Respondent

The Chief Secretary,
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh,
Lucknow, U.P.

The District Magistrate,
Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Block Development Officer,
Block Development Lodha,
Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 1.6.2019, addressed to the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh and copy endorsed to Press Council of India, has been filed by Shri Om Prakash Bhaghel Editor, Duniya Ek Nazar Mein, against the Block Development Officer, Division Lodha, Aligarh allegedly for misbehaving and threatening the complainant.

The complainant submitted that on 26.5.2019, he had sought information on two points from the Block Development Officer under the Right to Information Act-2005. Details of the information sought may be read as under:

1. "How many Cowsheds have been constructed. The information with respect to amount received from the Government for the construction of Cowsheds and the amount paid for each Cow shed be also provided".
2. "How many Accountants and Assistant Accountants and A.P.O, MGNREGA are working, there name, father's name, residence, facilities availed from Govt. be also given. Working employees are regular or on contract basis, information of their movable/immovable assets be also given".

In response thereto, an employee working with Block Development Office got annoyed with that and on 30.5.2019 at 4:09 by phone no. 8218872846, he gave a threat call. The complainant filed a complaint to the Chief Minister, U.P. and the District Magistrate, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh on 31.5.2019 in this regard but no action has been taken. The complainant requested the Council to take action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, the District Magistrate, Aligarh and the Block Development Officer, Aligarh on 21.8.2019.

Reply received from District Development Officer

The District Development Officer(DDO), Aligarh vide reply dated 19.9.2019 submitted that on 11.9.2019, the complainant and the Block Development Officer were

informed to present in District Development Office with all the evidences on 19.9.2019. However, the complainant was not present. On behalf of Block Development Officer, Lodha, Assistant Development Officer was present from whose phone number the threat call was made to the complainant.

The DDO submitted that the Assistant Development Officer presented the audio recording of the conversation and also gave Written Statement wherein it has been stated that he had made a call to the complainant and told him that he can only give relevant information and not the personal information, nor he has right to ask for such personal information.

Considering the present evidence, the DDO submitted that the complaint is baseless.

Counter Comments

The complainant vide Counter Comments dated 16.10.2019 submitted that the concerned letter sent by the District Development Officer with respect to hearing was received by him on 19.9.2019 while the hearing was fixed on 18.9.2019. He further submitted that the information under RTI Act was not sought specifically from Shri Jagdish Singh, Assistant Development Officer. The complainant submitted that the Assistant Development Officer abused him over phone despite the fact that he is not Public Information Officer. The complainant further submitted that information sought by him under RTI application dated 26.5.2019 has not been sent to him till date. He has requested the Council to take action against the Assistant Development Officer.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

Despite service of Notice, the complainant has not chosen to appear. The Block Development Officer, Division Lodha and Additional Development Officer, Panchayat are present. In the absence of the complainant, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further and accordingly recommends for dismissal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dismiss the complaint.

Press Council of India

S.No. 11

F.No.13/11/19-20-PCI.

Complainant

Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak,
Journalist,
Gaon-Gaon Ki Khabar,
Lucknow (U.P.).

Through
The Chief Editor,
Gaon-Gaon Ki Khabar,
Lucknow (U.P.)

Respondent

The Chief Secretary,
Government of U.P.,
Lucknow (U.P.).

The Secretary,
Home (Police) Department,
Government of U.P.,
Lucknow (U.P.).

The Director General of Police,
Uttar Pradesh Police,
Lucknow (U.P.)

The Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Lucknow (U.P.).

Ms. Nidhi Singh,
D/o Shri Bhpendra Singh,
Lucknow (U.P.)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 11.4.2019 has been filed by Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak, Journalist, Gaon-Gaon Ki Khabar, Lucknow through his Editor against the police authorities and anti-social elements for allegedly implicating him in false case.

According to the complainant, on 23.1.2019 one person namely; Shri Raju sent a video of sting operation of a sex-racket to him on WhatsApp for publication in the newspaper but before he could reach the newspaper office, an attempt was made to kidnap him and his mobile and wallet were snatched. In this regard, an FIR No.0030 under Section 342/352/392 of IPC was lodged in Police Station Jankipuram but no action was taken by the police. The complainant has further informed that on 28.1.2019, he came to know through daily newspaper that a woman, whose sting video was received by him, has filed a false FIR No.0075 dated 25.1.2019 under Section 506/504/341/354 of IPC in Police Station Gazipur against him and Shri Raju, who sent the sting video, levelling allegation of demanding one lakh rupees and threatening to throw acid in case of non-acceptance of demand.

The complainant has further stated that he was in Jankipuram on that day and not in Gazipur as mentioned by the woman in the FIR. The complainant has also stated that he has been regularly reporting news regarding misdeeds of the police and the said woman, who is part of sex-racket, is trying to implicate him in false case

with the connivance of the police. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the respondents on 19.8.2019.

Reply of Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow

The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow vide his reply dated 18.9.2019 has informed that the matter was investigated by the Circle Officer, Aligarh, Lucknow, who in his investigation report dated 15.9.2019 has informed that on the complaint of Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak, a case No.30/19 under Section 342/352/392 of IPC was lodged against three unknown persons and vehicle No.UP32 DQ3407. The matter is under investigation. It has been further informed that on the complaint of Ms. Nidhi Singh, a case No.75/2019 under Section 506/504/341/354 of IPC has been lodged in Gazipur Police Station against Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak and Shri Raju. The Inspector Incharge has been instructed by the Investigating Officer for quick disposal of the case as per law.

Counter Comments

The complainant-Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak vide his counter comments dated 13.10.2019 while reiterating his complaint has alleged that the Jankipuram and Gazipur police has yet not take any action despite nine months have passed. Neither the woman's statement has been recorded nor any chargesheet has been filed in the matter. The complainant has stated that the aim of the respondents is to pressurise him and tarnish his image in the society so that the truth could not be exposed. While apprehending danger to his life, the complainant has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Further Replies from Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow

The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow vide his further communications dated 30.10.2019 and 4.12.2019 while reiterating his earlier reply has informed that the instructions have been given by the Investigating Officers for quick disposal of the cases.

The Sr. Superintendent of Police, Lucknow vide his letter dated 15.12.2019 has forwarded a copy of the report dated 16.12.2019 of the Superintendent of Police City, Transgomti, Lucknow wherein it has been informed that during the investigation in case No.75/2019 under Section 506/504/341/354 of IPC lodged in Gazipur Police Station against Shri Raju and others on the complaint of Ms. Nidhi Singh, the name of Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak (complainant) was found to be incorrect in the case and accordingly his name was deleted and chargesheet has been filed against Shri Raju in this case on 14.12.2019.

It has been further informed that on the complaint of Shri Kumar Nandan Pathak a case No.30/19 dated 23.1.2019 under Section 342/352/392 of IPC was lodged against unknown persons and vehicle No.UP32 DQ3407. The matter is under

investigation. The Superintendent of Police stated that the Inspector Incharge, Police Station Jankipuram has been directed to dispose of the case on merit.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh While the complainant appeared in person, Shri Rajesh Kumar, Inspector, Police Station Jankipuram, Lucknow appeared on behalf of the respondents.

It is the assertion of the complainant that he was in possession of certain material of a sex-racket going on in a spa, an attempt was made to kidnap him and he gave a Report to that effect to the police on 23rd January 2019. His further assertion is that the lady who is alleged to be involved in the sex-racket had filed criminal case against him under Sections 354/341/504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code on 28th January 2019. Mr. Rajesh, Inspector of Police appears on behalf of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lucknow and states that the allegations made by the lady against the complainant have been found to be false during investigation and a Report to that effect having already been submitted to the Jurisdictional Magistrate, appropriate action under the provisions of Indian Penal Code shall be taken against the informant of the said case for giving such false report.

Let it be done and the ultimate Report submitted in the matter be forwarded to the Secretariat of the Council within two months.

He further states that the case lodged by the complainant is still pending for investigation. In the facts and circumstances of the case, the Inquiry Committee directs the respondents to complete the investigation without unnecessary delay.

With the aforesaid directions, the Inquiry Committee disposes of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Inquiry Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint with aforesaid directions.

Press Council of India

S.No. 12

F.No. 13/14/19-20-PCI

Complainant

Shri Vipin Bihari Tripathi,
District correspondent,
Trigut dainik,
Basti (U.P.)

Respondent

Shri Rajshekhar,
District Magistrate,
Basti (U.P)

Shri Murlidhar Singh,
Deputy Director Information,
Basti (U.P)

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complainant dated 13.4.2019 has been filed by Shri Vipin Bihari Tripathi, District Correspondent, Trigut Dainik, Basti (U.P.) against Shri Murlidhar Singh, Deputy Director Information, Basti alleging non-renewal of his accreditation card.

The complainant informed that he received a letter dated 27.3.19 from the Department of Information, Basti Division intimating that his accreditation card could not be renewed due to non-compliance of the formalities.

According to the complainant, he applied for renewal of accreditation card and in the absence of any reply from the respondent department, he complained to the District Magistrate, Basti and thereafter, the Deputy Director Information, Basti issued above said letter dated 27.3.2019, which was received by him at belated stage i.e. on 12.4.2019. The complainant has informed that neither the said letter was issued officially nor any receiving of the same was made. In fact, it was kept in a shop, which he received through someone else on 12.4.2019. The complainant has pointed out that if the formalities for renewal of accreditation were not completed, this should have been conveyed timely so that the remaining formalities could have been fulfilled on time, but it was not done. The complainant has stated that his rights were intentionally violated and due to non-receipt of accreditation card, he faced problem in collection of news and had to undergo mental torture.

The complainant addressed a letter dated 29.4.2019 to the respondent-Deputy Director Information, Basti intimating that he applied for renewal of accreditation card complying with all formalities on 13.4.2019 but no action was taken, therefore, he would face problem in collection of news during Lok Sabha election. The complainant has alleged that the respondent-Deputy Director Information, Basti is acting arbitrarily and adopting discriminatory attitude in issuance of accreditation card due to which journalists' interest is being affected.

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to Shri Murlidhar Singh, Deputy Director Information, Basti and the District Magistrate, Basti on 21.6.2019.

Reply of Assistant Director Information, Basti

The Assistant Director Information, Basti vide his reply dated 12.7.2019 has informed that as per available records, the complainant only submitted the salary certificate issued by his editor to their office on 13.4.2019. Accordingly, the complainant was informed vide their office letter dated 16.4.2019 that he has not submitted bank account statement or any receipt relating to salary. The respondent has further stated that there is clear provision in the Accreditation Policy- 2008 that under Working Journalist Act, 1955 at least Rs. 7,000/- p.m. salary of a correspondent should be certified and salary is received directly or through bank, but the complainant failed to comply with the said requirement. The respondent has also stated that their office did not receive copies of the newspaper 'Trigut Dainik' for the last one year, due to which complainant's newspaper could not be inspected. The respondent has stated that the complainant has not given salary details, therefore, allegation levelled by the complainant is baseless. He has stated that the complaint is liable to be dismissed.

Reply filed by Dy. Director, Information, Ayodhya

Dr. Murlidhar Singh, Dy. Director, Information, Ayodhya vide reply dated 10.12.2019, while reiterating the reply filed by Assistant Director on 12.7.2019 submitted that as per accreditation principle no 1038 dated 4.7.2008, the complainant had not renewed his accreditation card by 28th February, 2019. Thereafter, on 27.3.2019, the complainant was asked to fulfil the requirements however, the complainant had not chosen to do so. He further submitted that the complainant is not a journalist by profession. He runs his business.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Vipin Bihari, complainant appeared in person. Shri Anjuman Naqvi, the Deputy Director and Sangrakshak, Mr. Amresh Kumar state that the accreditation card of the complainant for the year 2020 shall be renewed by 31st of January 2020.

In view of the aforesaid Assurance, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed in the matter any further. After the renewal of accreditation card, the respondent shall furnish that information to the Secretariat of the Council.

The Inquiry Committee, accordingly, recommends for disposal of the complaint in the aforesaid terms.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint in wake of Assurance given by the respondent authority.

Press Council of India

S.No. 13

F.No.13/30/19-20-PCI.

Complainant

Shri Pramod Kumar Srivastava,
Journalist,
Baldev Sahara,
Lucknow (U.P.).

Respondent

The Chief Secretary,
Government of U.P.,
Lucknow (U.P.).

The Director,
Information & Public Relations
Department,
Government of U.P.,
Lucknow (U.P.).

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint dated 13.5.2019 has been filed by Shri Pramod Kumar Srivastava, Journalist, Baldev Sahara, Lucknow (U.P.) against the Information & Public Relations Department, Government of U.P., Lucknow for non-issuance of accreditation despite Council's order.

The complainant has submitted that he approached the Press Council of India on 10.2.2016 for issuance of accreditation and Press Council of India in its decision dated 3.3.2017 had directed the Government of U.P. to consider the prayer of the complainant within two months under intimation to the Council. The complainant alleged that despite many requests the respondent has not issued accreditation till date. Referring to respondent-department's Office Order dated 11.9.2018 whereby it has been pointed out that circulation figure of a newspaper should be above 25000 copies, he has been informed that circulation of his newspaper "Saurabh Darpan" is 5100 copies and apart from this many criminal cases is pending against the complainant.

The complainant informed that he has now joined "Baldev Sahara", Hindi weekly and circulation of the newspaper is 25550 copies and information in this regard was sent to the respondent-department. The complainant informed that he applied for accreditation on 21.2.2019 on behalf of "Baldev Sahara" complying with all requirements but accreditation was not issued. The complainant submitted that the respondent-department in its Order dated 11.9.2018 stated that many cases pending against him, but the respondent issued accreditation to one Shri Pankaj Verma, Special Correspondent of Sadhna Plus News Channel by taking affidavit against whom a case has been filed on 28.2.2019 in Police Station Hazratganj, Lucknow. The complainant further stated that the circulation figure of "Baldev Sahara" is in accordance with rule. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

No Reply

Notices for Statement in Reply were issued to the Government of U.P. on 7.8.2019 followed by a reminder dated 30.9.2019.

Further Communication from Complainant

The complainant vide his letter dated 2.11.2019 informed that he has left the newspaper "Baldev Sahara" and now he has joined Hindi weekly "Offbeat" as correspondent and circulation of "Offbeat" newspaper is 25150 copies. He has further informed that he applied for accreditation to the respondent-department on 3.10.2019.

Reply filed by Shri Shishir, Information Director, I&PRD, Lucknow, U.P.

Shri Shishir, Information Director, I&PRD, Lucknow, U.P. vide letter dated 16.12.2019 informed that the complainant has requested for accreditation from the newspaper, Baldev Sahara, Lucknow. The publication of the newspaper is of 08 pages whereas according to the guidelines-2008, essential number of pages are 12 in full size and 24 in tabloid size. As the publication of Baldev Sahara is not according to the norm, so it is not possible to issue accreditation to the complainant.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 18.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The complainant appeared in person.

Shri Anjum Naqvi, the Deputy Director of Information & Public Relations Department appears on behalf of the respondent and states that Accreditation Card shall be made available to the complainant within two weeks.

Let it be done.

In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee recommends for disposal of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint.

Press Council of India

S.No.14

F.No.13/3/19-20-PCI.

Complainant

Shri Arvind Kumar Shukla,
Editor/Publisher,
Dehat Suryodaya, Hindi Weekly,
Kanpur Rural (U.P.).

Respondent

The Registrar,
Registrar of Newspapers for India,
New Delhi.

Adjudication dated 22.01.2020

This complaint, received in the Secretariat on 1.4.2019, has been filed by Shri Arvind Kumar Shukla, Editor/Publisher, Dehat Suryodaya, Hindi weekly, Kanpur Rural, U.P. against the Registrar of Newspaper for India (RNI) for non-registration of title of his newspaper.

According to the complainant, his newspaper "Dehat Suryodaya" is being published from Kanpur Rural. He applied for registration of title of his newspaper complying with all requirements but despite repeated reminders no response was received from the RNI. The complainant further submitted that after complaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, he received a letter dated 11.4.2018 from the RNI intimating him that due to incomplete documents as mentioned in the RNI's letter dated 25.4.2017, the title of his newspaper had been de-blocked. The complainant stated that he has not received any such letter from RNI, while he was continuously issuing letters to the RNI. While levelling the allegation of harassment against the RNI, the complainant has requested the Council to direct the RNI for registration of his newspaper.

Notice for Comments was issued to the respondent-RNI on 25.4.2019.

Comments received from Respondents

The Deputy Press Registrar, RNI vide his comments dated 15.5.2019 informed that the complainant vide letter dated 25.7.2016 submitted documents for registration of his newspaper but the same were found incomplete. Therefore, vide RNI's letter dated 21.10.2016, 27.1.2017 and 25.4.2017 the complainant was requested to provide complete documents. In response thereto, the complainant vide his letters dated 8.11.2016 and 9.3.2016 provided the documents, but the same were again found incomplete. The respondent stated that the complainant did not provide the correct/complete documents despite repeated requests. The respondent further informed that the title of the complainant's newspaper was authenticated/ verified on 16.12.2015, which had been automatically de-blocked on 2.2.2018 for not being registered in the due period. An intimation in this regard was sent to the complainant on 5.9.2018.

Counter Comments

The complainant vide his undated counter comments, received in the Secretariat on 17.9.2019 and 1.10.2019 informed that the RNI has not issued letter dated 27.1.2019 to him. The complainant stated that he had sent all required documents to the RNI within the stipulated period and also issued many reminders, but he was not informed

about any discrepancy by the RNI. He has requested the Council to take necessary action in the matter.

Rejoinder of RNI

The Deputy Press Registrar, RNI vide his communication dated 5.11.2019 while reiterating his comments informed that the RNI received three communications from the complainant for registration of his newspaper and the complainant was requested to send complete/correct papers thrice. The respondent stated that it appears that the complainant did not take the case seriously.

Report of the Inquiry Committee

The matter came up for hearing before the Inquiry Committee on 17.12.2019 at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The complainant appeared in person whereas Dr. Srikant, DD(M&C), PIB, Lucknow represents the respondent.

The Inquiry Committee has heard the complainant and Dr. Srikant Srivastav appearing on behalf of the Registrar of Newspapers for India. It is the grievance of the complainant that he has applied for registration of title of the newspaper complying with all the requirements but despite repeated reminders, the respondent, Registrar of Newspapers has not given the complainant's newspaper "Dehat Suryodaya", a Hindi weekly the registration number.

Dr. Srikant Srivastav on behalf of respondent states that as the complainant had not given 10% of the published weekly newspaper from August 2016 as also he did not file agreement between him and the printer, the registration number has not been given.

In the facts and circumstances of the case, the Inquiry Committee directs the complainant to make available to the respondent 10% of its weekly newspaper as also the agreement signed between him and the printer within two weeks.

The complainant complying with the aforesaid directions, the respondent is directed to consider the prayer of the complainant within four weeks thereafter.

With the aforesaid directions, the Inquiry Committee disposes of the complaint.

Held

The Press Council on consideration of records of the case and Report of the Inquiry Committee accepts reasons, findings and adopts the Report of the Committee and decides to dispose of the complaint with directions to the parties.