**E-CONTENT**

**MJMC,  SEM-IV, PAPER-XIV (CC-402)  
  
 Topic : Press Council Acts (function and power)**

**Date : 21-01-2020, TIME : 2.00 P.M.-3.00 P.M.**

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**Press Council Acts (function and power)**

The Press Council Act empowers the Press Council to make observations in respect of conduct of any authority including Government, if considered necessary for performance of its functions under the Act. It can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist if it finds that a newspaper or a news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or a working journalist has committed any professional misconduct.

**Functions**

- to help newspapers to maintain their independence;

- to build up a code of conduct for newspapers news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards;

- to ensure on the part of newspapers news agencies and journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

- to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service aiming all those engaged in the profession of journalism;

- to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance;

- to keep under review cases of assistance received by any newspaper or news agency in India from any foreign source including such cases as are referred to it by the Central Government or are brought to its notice by any individual, association of persons or any other organization: Provided that nothing in this clause shall preclude the central Government from dealing with any case of assistance received by a newspaper or news agency in India from any foreign source in any other manner it thinks fit;

- to undertake studies of foreign newspapers, including those brought out by any embassy or other representatives in India of a foreign state, their circulation and impact.

- to promote a proper functional relationship among sell classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies:

- to concern itself developments such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may affect the independence of the Press;

- to indurate such studies as may be entrusted to the council and to espousers its opinion in regard to any matter referred to it by the central government;

- to do such other acts as may be incidental or conductive to the discharge of the above functions.

**Powers**

Every inquiry held by the Council shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding. Where, on receipt of a complaint made to it or otherwise, the Council has reason to believe that a newspaper has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or a working journalist has committed any professional mis-conduct or a breach of the code of journalistic ethics, the Council may, after giving the newspaper, the editor or journalist concerned an opportunity of being heard, hold an inquiry in such manner as may be provided by regulations made under this Act and, if it is satisfied that it is necessary so to do, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, censure the newspaper, the editor or journalist, as the case may be. If the council finds there is no sufficient ground for holding an inquiry the petition is dropped. The decision of the Council shall be final and shall not be questioned in any court of law.

**General powers**

Every inquiry held by the Council shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding. The general powers include:

- summoning and enforcing the attendance of persons and examining them on oath; ÿ requiring the discovery and production of documents;

- requisitioning any public record or copies thereof from any court or office; ÿ receiving evidence on affidavits;

- issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

- any other matter which may be prescribed. The Council may even make any observation over the conduct of government. The council may function on the fund it generates through fees, and government support. No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the council or any member thereof or any person acting under the direction of the council in respect of anything which is in good faith done intended to be done under this act. No suit other legal proceeding shall lie against any newspaper in respect of the publication of any matter therein under the authority of the council.