**E-CONTENT**

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

**Date : 20-01-2020, TIME : 2.00 P.M.-3.00 P.M.**

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**Press Council Acts**

There were two Acts that established the Press Council. The 1965 Act established the Press Council, and the 1978 Act reestablished it. The Press Council Act, 1965 The Act’s goal was to establish a Press Council for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of Newspapers in India. Effective from 12th Nov. 1965. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Council consists of a Chairman and twenty-five other members. The Chairman shall be a person nominated by the Chief Justice of India. The members include thirteen working journalists, of whom not less than six shall be editors of newspapers, six from the management section of the newspapers, three subject experts, two from the House of the People nominated by the speaker and one from the Council of States, chosen by its Chairman. Amendments on the Act Acting on grievances, composition of the nominating committee was changed by an amendment of the said Act in 1970, according to which the Chairman and the members from the press were to be nominated by a Nominating Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Chief Justice of India and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

The amending Act of 1970 introduced several other provisions in the Act. The manner of selection of persons of special knowledge or practical experience was specified. It provided that of the three persons to be nominated from among such people, one each shall be nominated by the University Grants Commission, the Bar Council of India and the Sahitya Academy. Out of the six seats for proprietors and managers of newspapers, two each were earmarked for big, medium and small newspapers.

The membership of the Council was raised by one to provide a seat for persons managing the news agencies. No working journalist who owned or carried on the business of management of newspapers could now be nominated in the category of working journalists. Also, it was specified that not more than one person interested in any newspaper or group of newspapers under the same control, could be nominated from the categories of editors, other working journalists, proprietors and managers.

The Nominating Committee was empowered to review any nomination on a representation made to it by any notified association or by any person aggrieved by it or otherwise. The amended Act also barred re-nomination of a retiring member for more than one term. Where any association failed to submit a panel of names when invited to do so, the Nominating Committee could ask for panels from other associations or persons of the category concerned or nominate members after consultation with such other such individuals or interests concerned as it thought fit. Under the original Act, the Chairman was nominated by the Chief Justice of India. But, after this amendment, nomination of the Chairman was also left to the Nominating Committee.

The Council set up under the Act of 1965 functioned till December 1975. During the Internal Emergency, the Act was repealed and the Council abolished. The Press Council Act - 1978 A fresh legislation providing for the establishment of the Council was enacted in 1978 and the institution came to be reviewed in the year 1979 with the very same object of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of Press in India. The present Council is a body corporate having perpetual succession. Objective of the Act is to establish a Press council for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining the standards of newspaper and news agencies in India. Effective from 7th Sept. 1978.

The revived Press Council was set up on March 1st, 1979. The council shall consist of a chairman and twenty-eight other members. The chairman is nominated by a Committee consisting of the chairman of the council of states (Rajya Sabha), the Speaker of the Houses of the People (Lok Sabha) and a person elected by the members of the council, and the nomination so made shall take effect from the date on which it is notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette. The members include thirteen working journalists, of whom not less than six shall be editors of newspapers, six from the management section of the newspapers (two each from big, medium and small newspapers), three subject experts (one each is nominated by UGC, Bar Council of India, and Sahitya Academy), one representing the news agencies, three from Lok Sabha nominated by the speaker and two from Rajya Sabha, chosen by its Chairman.