

INDIAN JOURNALISTS UNION

F-29, Shankar Market, Connaught Circus, New Delhi – 110 001

To

29th March 2012

Justice Markandey Katju,
Hon'ble Chairman,
Press Council of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

The Government of West Bengal has issued a circular to all the Government and Government aided Libraries to subscribe to newspapers listed in the circular and not to purchase others. The list consisted of eight Bengali newspapers which have limited or little circulation. All the English dailies including the mass circulated Times of India and Telegraph were left out. Even the mass circulated Bengali dailies such as Anand Bazar Patrika and Bartaman did not find a place. The circular asked the 2500 Libraries not to subscribe to any daily published by any political party. Strangely, three dailies whose Owners/Editors were elected to the Rajya Sabha on ruling Trinamool Congress Party tickets recently find prominent place in the list.

It seems that the Government headed by Ms Mamata Banerjee wants the people of West Bengal to read dailies chosen by it. This is unacceptable in a democratic society and goes against the fundamental right of the people to know enshrined in the Constitution. It also impinges on their right of choice of their reading. The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) this amounts to censorship of the press reminding us of the black days of Internal Emergency. We firmly believe it is a frontal attack on the freedom of the press.

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) requests the Press Council of India (PCI) to take cognizance of the circular and Suo Moto take suitable steps to protect the freedom of the press.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,



(S N Sinha)
President

(Devulapalli Amar)
Secretary-General

For correspondence with President

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