APPENDIX IV

CODE OF ETHICS FOR JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPAPER

(Drafted by a Committee of 17 Editors and presented to the Rajya Sabha on January 8, 1970)

In pursuance of the social responsibility, the following code of ethics would be applicable:

1) In the discharge of their duties, journalists shall attach full value to fundamental human and social rights, shall hold good faith and fairplay in news reports and comments as essential professional obligations.

2) Journalists and newspapers shall highlight activities of the State and public, promote national unity, solidarity, integrity and economic and social progress.

3) Journalists and newspapers shall avoid reports and comments which tend to promote tensions likely to lead or leading to civil disorder, mutiny or rebellion. Violence must be condemned unequivocally.

4) Journalists and newspapers shall ensure that information disseminated is factual. No fact shall be distorted nor information known to be false or not believed to be true shall be published.

5) No sensational or tendentious report of a speculative nature shall be published. Any report of comments found to be inaccurate shall be rectified by prominent publication.

6) Confidence shall always be respected. Professional secrecy shall be preserved.
7) Journalists shall not exploit their status for non-journalistic purposes or inquiries and shall not allow personal interest to influence professional conduct.

8) There is nothing so unworthy as the acceptance of demand of a bribe or inducement for the exercise by a journalist of his power to give or deny publicity to news or comments.

9) Journalists and newspapers shall not indulge in personal controversies in which no public interest is involved.

10) Journalists and newspapers shall not give currency to public rumours or gossip or even verifiable news affecting the private life of individuals.

11) Newspapers shall refrain from publishing matter (including advertisements) which is obscene or is likely to encourage vice, crime and unlawful activities.

12) Journalists and newspapers shall promote and project the national objectives of democracy, socialism and secularism.

13) Journalists and newspapers shall refrain from giving tendentious treatment to news of disturbances, involving castes, community, class, religion, region or language groupings and shall not publish details of numbers, identity of groups involved in such disturbances except as officially authorised.

14) Journalists and newspapers shall not publish information and comments detrimental to the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State and friendly relations with foreign countries. (Newspapers include journals, magazines and periodicals).