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Title: Regarding delay in implementation of Wage Board recommendations for Journalists and Non Journalist employees of newspapers and news agencies.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (LUDHIANA): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in the House today. Today I rise in support of a very important and integral part of our democracy and those are the working journalists and the non-working people connected with the Press and the media industry.

It seems that there was a Wage Board which was set up in 2007 to review the salaries and the working conditions of people associated with the media industry. Apparently this Wage Board has made very specific recommendations with regard to enhancement of salary and other pre-requisites of journalists and people who are otherwise connected with this industry. In spite of the fact that three years have elapsed, these recommendations have not been implemented. Today, all working journalists and other people connected with this industry are agitating across the country.

In this nation of ours, there has been this continuing debate between the freedom of the Press and the freedom of the owner of the Press. If we really want the freedom of the Press to prevail in this country, the starting point is to empower the working journalists. I would like to urge the Government, through you and through this House to take very serious cognizance of this matter and all the recommendations which have been made by the Wage Board should be implemented forthwith with effect from January 2008 which is the demand of the journalists. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri P.L. Punia is associating himself with the matter raised by Shri Manish Tewari.