

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to lift restrictions and allow South Indian Journalists / media on the media pertaining to reporting Parliamentary matters during session.

**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY):** Sir, in both peace and crisis, media plays a key role in holding Parliamentarians accountable. Hence, restrictions on access to media must be made only in extraordinary circumstances and for a limited time period.

Now permission is only given to the official media - Doordarshan, LSTV and RSTV have now been merged into one Sansad TV - and most of the news agencies are to cover the daily proceedings. Moreover, a lottery system was put in place under which only 21 electronic and print media reporters were allowed to enter Parliament but it is noted that English and Hindi media journalists are getting most of the opportunity to enter Parliament while only two authorised journalists from Malayalam media have got the chance so far.

Therefore, I urge the Government that restrictions on the media may be lifted and more South Indian journalists, specially from Kerala, may be given the chance of reporting Parliamentary matters during Session.

**माननीय सभापति :** मैं प्रत्येक ऑनरेबल मेंबर से रिक्वेस्ट कर रहा हूँ कि अपनी बात संक्षेप में कहिए।

... (व्यवधान)