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Title: Regarding freedom of Media.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a serious matter. You know that Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity under I&B Ministry is a nodal agency for releasing advertisements of the Central Government and PSUs to media organisations and other publicity agencies. Now it works on digitized mode for releasing advertisements and for payments to media organisations.

For this purpose, each media company is given a user name and a password to log in to the website of DAVP. This is to bring transparency. But what has happened during the present NDA regime? मीडिया वालों का गला दबाया जा रहा है, सारे एडवर्टाइजमेंट बंद किए जा रहे हैं। गलती यह है, उन लोगों का दोष यह है कि यह सरकार के खिलाफ आवाज उठाते हैं। सरकार के खिलाफ आवाज उठाना कोई जुर्म नहीं है।

The undemocratic and megalomaniac style of stopping government advertisement is a message to media from this Government to toe its line. Rafale deal was engulfed in controversies, favouritism and corruption. The *Hindu* newspaper exposed it; the *Times of India* exposed the violation of model code of conduct by the Prime Minister; The *Telegraph* and the *ABP* were critical of the Prime Minister. This is a democratic country and the freedom of expression and freedom of press are so much important that everybody must stand up to protect these basic rights....(Interruptions)

