

Title: Need to stop frequent attacks on the Press and harassment of journalists by the Government.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last several months, continuous attack on the Press and media is taking place all over the country. Sir, you know that Mr. Iftikar Gilani one journalist from Delhi, Bureau Chief of *Kashmir Times* was arrested on the charge that he possessed a secret document regarding Armed Force deployment in Kashmir ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am hearing you. I am giving you a lot of concessions. Please do not interrupt him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, he was arrested on the charge of possessing a secret document. What was he possessing? Six years before, one document was published and he downloaded it from the Internet. It was now found in 2002. How can it be a secret document? But under the Official Secret Act, he was arrested. Now, when it has not been proved, he has been charged under the Pornography Act. In that way, they are harassing the journalist, browbeating the journalist and suppressing the journalist. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, there are so many things. Sir, the Press Council of India, day before yesterday, opined that this document cannot be considered as secret and does not violate the Official Secret Act. â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. A.K. Premajam.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, they are harassing the journalists from *The Outlook*. They are harassing the journalists from the *Tehelka*. The journalists of all other magazines are being harassed because during the Gujarat riot, the incidents were properly reported by the media. â€¦ (*Interruptions*) They are punishing the Press. They are harassing the *Tehelka* journalists. They are harassing *The Outlook* journalists. ...(*Interruptions*) They are attacking on electronic media also .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, if you want to speak now, you speak. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Suresh Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I must be given a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, when I called your name, you did not respond. That is why, I have called Shri Suresh Jadhav. Please sit down. After some time, you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, the attack on the Press should be stopped. The journalist, Shri Gilani should be released. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I thank you very much for this opportunity. I want to bring before the House, through you, Sir, a very, very important matter of Constitutional nature.

Freedom of Press, as you are aware, involves right to information and it is one of the cornerstones of our Constitution. Press is known as the fourth estate. Of late, as already mentioned by my comrade in this House, harassment, attack and violence on the journalists who are working in print media and also in the electronic media are on the increase. Recently everybody knows that the correspondent of *Time*, Mr. Alex Perry and also his colleague had been deprived of their accreditation cards just because they wrote an article on the hon. Prime Minister of India. There is this kind of attack on the freedom of the Press.

*Not Recorded.

Naturally, through this, the freedom of the people to know, their right to information, is being attacked by this Government. It is none other than the Government which is the perpetrator of this action.

In Kerala, the Central Industrial Security Force, which has been deployed in the Nedumbassery International Airport, has attacked the Press people. There was no provocation at all. Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government to see that this is stopped forthwith.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : सभापति महोदय, हमने भी नोटिस दिया था। श्री हन्नान मोल्लाह जी और प्रो. प्रेमाजम जी ने जी सवाल उठाया है। मैं भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि लोक सभा का चौथा खम्भा मीडिया, पत्रकारिता होती है। उस पर एमर्जेंसी की तरह सरकार द्वारा दमनात्मक कार्रवाई हो रही है, दमन किया जा रहा है, जलाया जा रहा है। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You also associate with this.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : तहलका के एक पत्रकार को केस में फंसाकर जेल में बंद किया गया। (व्यवधान) शंकर शर्मा, फाइनेंसर को जेल में बंद किया गया। गुजरात में भी एक पत्रकार को जाली केस में फंसाकर जेल में बंद करके रखा। लोक तंत्र का हनन हो रहा है और मीडिया का दमन सरकार की ओर से हो रहा है। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what is this? You asked for half a minute only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Suresh Jadhav.