

Participants : [Manoj Dr. K.S., Singh Shri Ganesh](#)

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Title: Need to constitute wage board for jouranalists and employees engaged in print and electronic media.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter of grave concern. The media industry in the country, comprising newspapers, periodicals, news agencies and satellite TV channels is on the growth path. ... (*Interruptions*) However, journalists and non-journalist employees of print media and news agencies and their counterparts in TV channels in large parts of the country are being denied salaries and service conditions commensurate with the new challenges in the professional arena, increased workload on account of diversification and all-round increase in the cost of living.

The salary and service conditions of journalists and non-journalist employees in newspapers and news agencies are governed by the Working Journalists' Act of 1955. Under the provisions of the Act, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to constitute Wage Boards every five years to revise the salaries of the workforce of newspapers and news agencies. ... (*Interruptions*)

Since there is no such legal cover for journalists and non-journalist employees in the TV industry, a large segment of the workforce in the media industry are at the mercy of managements, who are concerned more about increasing their profits and in exploiting the journalists and non-journalist employees who work day in and day out to make such profits possible. The Government of India constituted the last Wage Board for journalists and non-journalist employees in 1993. ... (*Interruptions*) The recommendations were implemented only in 2001.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Yes, sir. Already ten years have lapsed after the last Wage Board was constituted. Therefore, I request the Government in this regard to take action. During the last Session the members of the media met the hon. Minister and the hon. Minister assured that the new Wage Board will be constituted as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your statement.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, no Wage Board has been constituted till now. I urge upon the government to constitute a new Wage Board for journalists and non-journalist employees in newspapers, news agencies and TV channels and with stipulations about the timeframe for submitting its report. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It cannot be a long statement of two pages.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, I am concluding. My request is to bring journalists and non-journalist employees in TV channels under the ambit of the Working Journalists' Act, announce 25 per cent

interim relief for all journalists and non-journalist employees in newspapers, news agencies and TV channels and initiate measures to curb contract employment and other anti-labour practices in the print and visual media industries.

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody listens to the Chair. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : It seems, the Chair has become totally immaterial.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Thank you, Sir.

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना) : मैं श्री मनोज जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mani Charenamei to speak now.