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Title: Regarding increasing incidents of violent attacks on media persons in North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Special Mentions.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (ARUNACHAL WEST): Sir, I am going to raise a very important issue. I thank you for permitting me to raise this important issue. This is regarding the attack on journalists in the North-Eastern Region. In recent few years, many journalists have come under attack from various elements. Those journalists who have reported very well, who have the courage to speak the truth and who have been very, very clear in their profession have been attacked by various elements.

I want to take one example. Last month, on the 10th of February, 2008, the Chairperson of one of the leading television channels of North-East, Ms. Manoranjana Sinha, was attacked, and subsequently, one lady journalist belonging to the Arunachal Pradesh was also attacked. The Government of Assam said that one inquiry was going on.

My request to the Union Home Ministry and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to find out culprits and pressurize the State Government of Assam to institute an inquiry, have possibly a highest level inquiry, against the culprits who attacked the journalists. The liberty and freedom of the journalists must be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the Budget speech. You only have to make a mention of it.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU : The International Journalists Federation also condemned the incident. The civil societies of North-East, the Assam Students Union, and political parties have all condemned the incident. I also condemn it from this august House. The State Government of Assam is acting against those journalists who are not favourable to the State Government of Assam. It is very shameful. I request you to take necessary action in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. Do not take too much time. This is 'Zero Hour'.