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Title: Regarding interim relief to journalists and other employees of newspapers and news agencies in view of delay in submission of Wage Board Report.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of great concern relating to the members of the Fourth Estate, that is, media. 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 this Act, it is mandatory on the part of the Government to constitute a Wage Board every five years to revise the salary of the work force of newspapers and news agencies. As per the Act, the Government has appointed the Sixth Wage Board with retired Justice Shri K. Narayana Kurup as the Chairman of the Wage Board. Prior to this, the Fifth Wage Board was appointed in 1993, but its recommendations were implemented only in 2001. The tenure of the present Wage Board is three years. Till the tenure is over, the journalists and non-journalist employees have to wait for their salary hike. So, they demand that Interim Relief should be given to them. It is a genuine demand. Therefore, I demand that the Government should consider granting Interim Relief to the journalists and non-journalist employees of the media.