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Title: Needs to provide salary and perks to part-time reporters/cameramen appointed by Doordarshan.

SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): I would like to raise the issue of stringers of Doordarshan News working all over India to cover and collect News even.

Stringers are the part time Reporters/cameramen appointed by Doordarshan for covering news events in different parts of country. Regional News Units (RNU) like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkatta are almost 100% dependent upon these Stringers for their news part. As Doordarshan News have merely any permanent correspondents in their service, the NEWS section has to rely upon the services of these Stringers. The Stringers all over country are appointed with the equipments like 3CCD Cameras, vehicles, laptops, fax machines, mobiles etc. they are like the substitutes to the permanent employees of Doordarshan and thus Doordarshan is benefited by not paying them as the Government Employee Salary recommended by 6th pay commission. DD News is a 24 hrs channel run by Doordarshan and it competes with all other Private Channels with the help of these Stringers.

I would like to bring to your kind notice the Hon. Minister should consider the poor condition of the Stringers working in Doordarshan News as they are the backbone of the News section. The then NDA Government suddenly reduced the amount paid to the stringers per coverage to the 50% of the amount being paid to them till the year 2003. Doordarshan use to pay Rs. 1650/- per local coverage where the Stringer is appointed and if he travels out of the city appointed they would get Rs.2400/- per coverage + the transport charges. The then NDA Government reduced the charges to Rs. 800/- and Rs. 1000/- respectively. After the continuous follow-up of various Stringers Association, the Ministry increased the same amount to Rs.1200/- and Rs. 1500/- respectively, which is not even the amount paid originally in the year 2003.

On one hand the inflation rate is increasing day by day, petrol and diesel price are going to upward trend, the Government is paying their employees the salary as per the 6th pay Commission and the Stringers who run around in the field in the sun and rains for the News are being poorly paid. They are continuously demanding the hike in payment structure and the annual payment limit be increased from 2 lacks per annum per Stringner to Rs. 5 lacs per annum per stringer. Even I have written twice in this regard and also tried to meet the Hon. Minister with the delegation of Stringers but nothing is fruitful. By taking this opportunity, I would like to request the Minister to look into this matter personally and do justice to the Stringers of the Doordarshan News.