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Title : Need to constitute wage board for Journalist in the light of policies adopted by Newspaper Publishing industries.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of this august House regarding the miserable plight of working journalists of India. Recently the 43<sup>rd</sup> State Conference of Working Journalists was held in my constituency which was attended by intellectuals, trade union leaders and political leaders etc. The Conference expressed much concern about outsourcing contract job and retrenchments in newspaper publishing industry.

Sir, the Fourth Estate being the pillar of democratic nation, it pains me to observe that the so called press media pretending to be the saviour of democracy is treating the working journalists like bonded labourers. We have a strong Act called the Working Journalists Act, 1955. The most relevant feature of the Working Journalists Act is the creation of a Wage Board. The Journalists Act has come into force 50 years ago. Sir, I would urge the Government to take immediate action to create a new Wage Board for the Working Journalists including the Electronic Media which should be brought under the purview of this board. Thank you, Sir.