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Title: Regarding issues of the employees of media houses.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the media is recognized as the fourth pillar of democracy after judiciary, legislative and executive. Now, in our country, the media is facing a raw deal. Even illegal termination of media people from newspapers and from television channels has become rampant.

17.49 hour (Dr. P. Venugopal *in the Chair*)

Employees are sacked without citing any serious, specific reasons. Dictatorship of the media management prevails. Challenging these in the Labour Courts and the Tribunal has become sheer waste of time and money as the existing labour laws have lost its teeth. So, I would request the hon. Labour Minister that he should look into this issue.

The media always helps bolstering our democratic institution. Since 1956, three, four Wage Boards were constituted. Later on, everything got terminated. So, I would request the Labour Minister and the Government that the issue of employees who are working in the media house should be taken care of so that they should not face discrimination and illegal threat for termination. ...(*Interruptions*)

With these words, I would conclude my speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.