

an>

Title :Regarding alleged restrictions on media to cover Kerala High Court Proceedings.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA) : I would like to invite the kind attention of the Government regarding the virtual ban on journalists from entering the premises of the Kerala High Court and various courts in the State. This unofficial ban has been in force since 19th July, after a clash between the journalists and a group of lawyers in the premises of the High Court. Following the clash, journalists have been denied entry to the premises of the High Court of Kerala. For gathering news from the High Court, now the journalists are depending on the press releases issued by the Public Relations Officer of Kerala High Court. The Judiciary and the media known as the third and fourth estates respectively are the pillars of democracy. An environment, which ensures free, fair and fearless functioning of judiciary and media, is the vital for the survival of democracy. Therefore, I request the Government to kindly intervene in the matter.