

श्री मधुसूदन मिश्री (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Special Mentions. Shri Vijay Goel – hon. Member not present. Next, Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda.

Demand to enact a legislation for the protection of journalists

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Sir, there is an urgent need to enact a national legislation for the protection of journalists. In the past several years, India has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; no, let us not make such a sweeping remark. ...*(Interruptions)*... Professor, you are a learned person. ...*(Interruptions)*... Since the hon. Member is saying it in the Parliament, it would be quoted outside also. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just cautioning him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Sir, I am saying this on the basis of evidence. That's all.

Last year, India ranked 13th in the Global Impunity Index by the Committee to Project Journalists, which features countries with the worst record of punishing killers of journalists. Reporters without Borders has listed India at 140th, out of 180 countries on its World Press Freedom Index.

A Sub-Committee of the Press Council of India prepared a detailed report on the attacks faced by working journalists, in 2015. It found that 80 journalists have been killed in India since 1990, and most of their cases are still pending in courts. The report demands that a separate law be enacted for the safety of journalists across India, along with other recommendations, and was submitted to the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting, late Shri Arun Jaitley. That report can be the basis for drafting the law.

We have all heard of tragic cases of murders of journalists. Threats, intimidation and violence against journalists are also major problems. How long will we let this continue? In the absence of legal protection and mechanism to create a safe environment for journalists and media persons, the public domain and discourse suffer the most. Therefore, I urge the Government to enact a legislation for the protection of journalists and the media, and ensure that freedom of the Press stays alive.

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजमणि पटेल (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

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SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

**Demand for additional Vistadome railway coaches between
Visakhapatnam and Araku**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Visakhapatnam is a major tourist destination and is particularly known for its beaches, caves and ghats. It is referred to by many nicknames, such as, the Jewel of the East coast.

Amongst its numerous tourist attractions is the Vista-Dome coach. At present, the coach is attached to the regular train between Visakhapatnam and Araku. The coach is specially designed with a single large window through which tourists can get a panoramic view of the Eastern Ghats and its ecology. These coaches are, therefore, very popular with the European travellers due to their ability to give breathtaking view. Despite its popularity and huge demand, unfortunately, there exists just one Vistadome coach for the whole of Visakhapatnam. On most days, there exists a long waiting list for its tickets. There is, therefore, a requirement of plying at least five more Vistadome