

an>

Title : Need to ensure safety of Indian Nationals working in Afghanistan.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (MACHILIPATNAM): Recent brutal killing of an engineer from Andhra Pradesh is one more dastardly and uncivilized act of terror by Taliban fundamentalists. This is not for the first time that such a thing has happened, on 6.12.2003, two Indians were abducted; on 8.11.2003, a telecom engineer was shot dead; on 19.11.2005, Maniappan Kutty was abducted and killed; In February, 2006, Bharat Kumar was killed in a blast; and, now, Surayanarayana has been beheaded. Apart from this, very recently, ten Indian doctors working in various hospitals of Afghanistan received threats from Taliban. These clearly justify the apprehensions of Indians, particularly from Andhra Pradesh about their security, because, out of 3,000 odd workers working in Government and non-Government sectors, more than 1,000 are from Andhra Pradesh.

It is good that Government of Andhra Pradesh announced Rs. 5 lakh compensation. Government of India is also extending financial package to families of the victims. This is not the way out. The way out is to provide more security to our workers. It is good that 200 ITBP personnel are providing security to workers who are working on behalf of Government of India. But the fate of nearly 2,000 people, majority of whom are from Andhra Pradesh, is at stake since ITBP covers only Government officials. Hence, I impress upon Government of India to depute more ITBP personnel to provide security to Indians working in non-Government sector and also insist on private companies employing Indians to put in place comprehensive security measures for safety of workers working in various projects in Afghanistan. The Government of India should also request Afghanistan Government to extend local security to Indians working in Afghanistan.