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Title: Need for immediate release and repatriation of Indian drivers in Iraq.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, this is for your kind attention and for seeking the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs to direct our Embassy at Kuwait for the release and repatriation of Shri Asharaf and Shri Francis Kochavaran. These two Indian citizens holding Indian passports were working with M/s. Public Warehousing Company, Sulaibiya, Kuwait. This company is a US based one and Asharaf and four of his colleagues were supplying food materials to the US Army in Iraq. On 6th of this month, the above convoy was attacked by some strangers or extremists and kept under house arrest. Their passport and other emigration documents also were snatched away by these strangers. Mr. Asharat and his colleagues somehow escaped from their custody and approached the police authorities for help. The police arrested them and detained them in the Basva detention centre. They are not even being provided adequate food and they are ill-treated and are mentally tortured.

Mr. Asharaf belongs to my constituency and is a native of Alleppey. He belongs to a poor family. His family consists of his wife, three children and ailing mother. His family members are very eager and anxious of his return to home land. I, therefore, request that appropriate action may please be taken for the immediate release and repatriation of the individual from the Basva jail at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri P.C. Thomas to speak. You can raise only one matter.