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Title : Reported ill-treatment meted out to 115 Indians held hostage in Jordan.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Sir, Some four months back, one Mr. Karuppaswami of Kattanur village in Thiruchuzhi Union in Virudhunagar District of Tamilnadu along with 115 people went to Jordan in search of job. They were lured by recruitment agencies who promised them lucrative job opportunities there. They had been cheated by those who gave them false promises. They were sent to Jordan through a pipe line agent in Guindy, Chennai in arrangement with the sub agent called Michaelraj from Madurai. In the last four months they were not given any work permit or job there. They had been left abandoned in Amman the capital of Jordan. After that they were left to fend for themselves and went about searching for jobs. In the meantime when they approached our Indian Embassy there, the Diplomats have cold shouldered them. Our mission officials have ignored them though the poor workers pleaded for help.

Currently all these 115 people have been confined in a single room in a building called Albourn in Liath Road in the City of Amman in the Capital of Jordan. It is reported that they are famished with nil or negligible food. I have already written a letter to our Hon. Prime Minister who holds External Affairs Portfolio too. I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to bring home this hapless men taking appropriate measures at the earliest.

I also urge upon the Union Government to identify the cheats in the garb of recruitment agents who lure and snatch away lakhs of rupees from the unsuspecting poor people who believe they can get overseas jobs somehow. These imposters must be brought to book and must be punished under criminal laws. I urge upon the Government to save these people from the misery and direct our Mission in Jordan to act swiftly and efficiently.

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.