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Title: Need to take steps for evacuation of Indians stranded in Libya.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Madam, the recent political developments sparked off in Tunisia and later spread to Egypt has now engulfed Libya. It is of grave concern that thousands of Indians in Libya, mostly Nurses from Kerala are held up in their places of duty and hostels. They are in crises both mental and physical surviving without bare essentials like food, safe shelter. For their worried families back in India, they are out of bounds for communication. There are conflicting reports of the situation worsening with the Libyan Ambassador in India having resigned in despair.

According to Government reports, close monitoring of the situation is being done by the Indian Mission in Libya to face any eventuality. But there are conflicting reports from stranded Indian community that the rescue operations are still inadequate as compared to quick action initiated by other countries.

Judged by the situation worsening and spreading to countries in the region especially Gulf, the Government should act with a sense of urgency. Hence I urge the Government to rush a team of special emissaries to Libya to oversee the rescue and relief operations. It is also necessary to set up a sort of unified command structure involving different Ministries like External Affairs, Overseas Indian Affairs, Civil Aviation, and Defence.

MADAM SPEAKER: The name of Shri A. Sampath is associated with the matter raised by Shri Jose K. Mani.