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Title : Need to initiate action for safe passage of Indian citizens stranded in Iraq and to introduce a rehabilitation scheme for them.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an issue regarding deportation of Indian nationals from Iraq. At this juncture, I would like to appreciate and congratulate the Government of India, especially the hon. Minister of External Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, and also Shri Oommen Chandy, hon. Chief Minister of Kerala for the astute diplomacy exercised for the safe return of 46 Indian nurses and construction workers to India. The Government of India in cooperation with the State Government – along with the Chief Minister as well as the Minister of External Affairs – has done a wonderful work in the safe return of the refugees, that is, 46 Indian nurses as well as our 76 construction workers to India.

Even after this also media reports came; today also it is being reported in the media that so many refugees are still there in Iraq. Also in the disturbed region of Kurdistan and other parts of Iraq, so many Indian nationals are still there and they are not even able to contact the Indian Embassy there because there is lack of infrastructure and communication facility. Still the difficulty is there and refugees and hostages are there. It is being reported in the Press that from the Alleppey district also 39 families are still there as refugees. Also the Embassy of India in Baghdad, Iraq is doing a very wonderful work and they are giving all assistance not only to the refugees but also to all the Indian nationals. Communication facility through telephone is there; everything is there. I would like to place on record that the Ambassador especially is doing a very good job and is doing his best for the Indian nationals there.

As per our information, the remaining people intend to come back to India. As per the telephone calls which we received from our nationals who are residing there, they all intend to come back because of the internal civil war. Too much disturbance is still going on. So they want to come back.

My submission to the Government, through you, Sir, is to have some special flights to Baghdad and to some other destinations in Iraq so that maximum deportation of Indian nationals will be possible. It is because, transportation facility is still lacking there. It is a big difficulty there. So, my first submission is that special flights should be arranged. Secondly, those who have come back, they should be rehabilitated. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Kindly conclude now. The matter has come on record.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, I am just concluding. The Government of India should have a concrete plan so that they should be rehabilitated in India also. These are my two submissions.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, I would like to associate with Shri Premachandran. It is a very serious issue....(*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Sir, I would also like to associate....(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can send your slips. He has already spoken. I think, this practice should be adhered to.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I know it is an important issue but there is a certain procedure laid down for it. Let us not violate the procedure, please. I am requesting you now.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I know the matter is very important. You also know that the Government of India has done their maximum for it and they are doing it. Since you know everything, now let us give opportunity to others also.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The message has gone home. He has spoken at length. Now, let us give opportunity to others also. Thank you very much.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have given your reasons. Shri Naranbhai.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Government is there. They are listening to it. They listen every word. They are already on the job. They have done their maximum. They are doing it now. Take your seat, please. Let him speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and

Dr. A. Sampath are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.