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Title: Regarding 21 people missing from Kerala and request to investigate the matter.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to place before this House a very, very serious issue. It is in connection with my own State. It is really an issue of not my own State but it is really a general issue that I want to place before this House.

Madam, two months back about 21 persons, including six women and three children, were missing in my State. Among them, two are doctors, two are engineers and others are also well educated. There was no communal tension or any other activities in this area. Madam, 11 persons are from one Panchayat, that is, Padanna Panchayat, six persons are from Trikaripur Panchayat and one each from Palakkad, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram.

According to their relatives, they were missing for the last two months. They disclosed this fact only a few days back. They said many of them were going outside for jobs and also for business. Some of them left the families earlier for religious studies but they were returning to their homes after 10 days or regularly after two weeks.

For the last two months, their families have no information at all and their mobile phones are also getting no response. In such a situation, their relatives informed this incident. Considering the seriousness of the issue, I met the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala. I also informed the hon. Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh about this issue. Since the incident relates to my constituency, I have visited all the family members personally and I asked them to give all detail and evidence like passport details, telephone calls, etc. to police as this is a serious issue and we do not know anything about it.

The Chief Minister of Kerala has taken this issue very seriously and immediately ordered for setting up of a police investigation team under the DGP of the State. It was told that some of them have gone to Sri Lanka and further preceded to Tehran, the Capital of Iran. But the police could not trace their whereabouts and their intention or motive is still unknown.

Family members of these people are fully cooperating with police. They have provided all the evidence which they had. But in such a situation the State police at its own could not reveal the facts. Since they have already left the country, the Central Government has to take all possible steps to find them out and reveal the reasons for their disappearance. We cannot say anything whether they have gone with religious purpose or they have any connection with any extreme groups. After the reply from the hon. Minister in the morning, media persons are also giving their views in this respect but we do not know whether they are right or wrong.

I request the Central Government, as all the investigating agencies are with it, to provide all support in this regard. The State Government has already registered an FIR and investigating it. But it is not possible for them alone because these people have left the country. So, I request the Central Government to investigate into it and reveal the facts. Though I have got a reply from the hon. Home Minister, the Government should reveal in this House as to what the present position in this case is or whether they have got any information or not.

HON. SPEAKER: S/

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

P.K. Biju,

Jose K. Mani,

Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Dr. A. Sampath and

Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Hon. Member, Shri P. Karunakaran has raised a very serious issue. Madam, 21 people are missing and all of them are from Kerala. There are some unconfirmed media reports that they have joined some terrorist organisation. It should be confirmed only by the Central Investigating Agency, that is, NIA.

Madam, in the morning I also pointed out that through these reports some malicious campaign is going on to divide the country on this issue. However, in the aftermath of the reported incident, there is a deliberate attempt to spread out islamophobia among the citizens of the country. To

my knowledge, all Muslim organisations and influential Islamic scholars in the country have severely criticized and rejected the radical ideology put forward by the ISIS. ISIS is the enemy of the country. The terrorism has no religion. But when the Government is investigating on these recent reported cases, somebody is trying to divide the country and trying to misuse it for communal advantage. This should be controlled.

The Government of India should come forward and say if they have got any information about it. They should come forward and clear the ambiguity. Thank you, Madam.