Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to take steps to provide legal assistance to trapped students in USA who had enrolled in the alleged fake University.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Madam, I would like to bring an important thing to your notice which is the assistance to Telangana students who have been arrested in US.

Madam, I would like to remind you of the unfortunate happening in the United States of America, where the Department of Homeland Security recently carried out an undercover operation at the University in Detroit.

As many as 600 students had enrolled in the fake university, established to entrap vulnerable foreign students. Many of them are from my State of Telangana and unfortunately, students who belong to my constituency of Mahbubnagar also got detained. So far, 129 students have been arrested. Most of the students were not aware that the university was operating illegally, and our children now face prosecution in the United States.

It is urgent to note that the students did not enter the country illegally and therefore, should not be unwillingly deported back to India. They should not be treated at par with the agents who lured them to the fake university, for they had no criminal intention.

12 23 hrs

At this stage, Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, Dr. Ravindra Babu and some other hon.

Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Our Party TRS Working President, Shri K.T. Rama Rao has held a meeting with the US Consulate in Hyderabad and is keeping a track on the issue. The Ministry of External Affairs has also said that looking after our students arrested in the USA is their top priority.

Madam Speaker, students take big amounts of loan to go and study abroad, often mortgaging their own house to secure the loan. They are then obliged to work there so as to be able to repay the loan. However, at the same time, if these students are forcibly deported to India, the Government should look after the financial security as well. Therefore, I request the Government to take a holistic view of the issue. They should be provided with legal assistance and those arrested should be allowed to post bond to get out of detention centres. For the sake of their worried parents, for the sake of our students, I urge the Government to take concrete action against the same and see that the boys are not harassed.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्यगण, नियम 377 के अधीन मामलों को सभा पटल पर रखा जाएगा। जिन सदस्यों को नियम 377 के अधीन मामलों को आज उठाने की अनुमित दी गई है, जो उन्हें सभा पटल पर रखने के इच्छुक हैं, वे तुरंत मामले का पाठ व्यक्तिगत रूप से सभा पटल पर भेज दें। केवल उन्हीं मामलों को सभा पटल पर रखा माना जाएगा, जिनके लिए मामले का पाठ सभा पटल पर प्राप्त हो गया है। शेष को व्यपगत माना जाएगा।

...(<u>व्यवधान</u>)