

12.12 hrs.

[*Translation*]

RE. POSITION OF INDIANS IN KUWAIT

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than two lakh Indians are stranded in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Approximately forty to fifty thousand citizens of Gujarat, the state I come from, are stranded there. Some of their relatives came to Ahmedabad and said that the Indian Embassy does not extend any facilities to the stranded people there. When the Indians reach their Embassy premises after enduring the fine some journey of thousands of miles through the desert, they are not even allowed to enter the Embassy. They are not even permitted to stand at the nearby footpaths. There are 40-50 thousand such people including women and children who are given no facilities and, ironically, our Minister of External Affairs announces here in the House that our Embassy is helping them in many ways. I shall not hesitate from going to the extent of saying that our hon. Minister of External Affairs is trying to misguide the House..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated now. You have had your say. Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to take my seat unless my query is replied.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Liberia is a small country in the African continent and there too has arisen the same situation for the past 20 days. Five to six hundred Indian citizens have got stranded there due to Civil war in that country. In this connection, I have had a dialogue with the hon. Foreign Minister on telephone on 13th of this month and he said that out ship has reached Liberia to pick up

the Indians but they have not arrived on Indian shores as yet. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Foreign Minister as to what is the position in regard to the Indian citizens stranded in Liberia and when will they be brought back to India? I urge the hon. Foreign Minister to make a statement in this regard by today evening. ..(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: What is the latest situation obtaining in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia? The Government should respond to my question...(*Interruptions*)....

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am as much concerned as you are. I too am saying that it is a very important matter.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS(Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly direct the Government to respond to his question.....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should come up with the reply. If he does not do so, how can we face the people of Gujarat when we go there?.....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. SPEAKER: Pathakji, please sit down. Shri Upendra ji is on his legs to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it had been decided and said that information with regard to Kuwait will be shared everyday here in the House. Why is it then that no information is being given. Information should be given here.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are aware that the Minister of External Affairs is in Kuwait now. Yesterday he came there. Before that he was in Baghdad. He met the Iraqi authorities and Indians there are now being helped to come out of that country. All arrangements are being made for that and the Members are aware of all these things. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARINATHAK: There is no help by our Embassy. All the people are at the mercy of Kuwait authorities (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I have not completed. (*Interruptions*) We will come with a statement tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The entire House and the whole nation is concerned about it

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he would come with a statement tomorrow.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please tell me the nature of the action plan formulated by the Government. So many days have passed and those people are still there. Our diplomats have gone there and what will they discuss there.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he is also concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): What arrangement has been made? The hon. Minister should reply because the Government gave an assurance in this regard five days back.

[English]

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before he answers I want to make one point. On the day when the matter was raised here, I told them that from Kuwait to Amman, it is 1,000 kms. Have you put down any food dump? Have you put any petrol dump or water dump? They have not given any State plan. They cannot take out 1,25,000 people by sending four or five planes (*Interruptions*) They have got to arrange ships to take them. I would like that, after the statement, a full-fledged debate should take place. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he would come with a statement tomorrow. I can only ask him to respond.

(*interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is shortage of food in Kuwait and Indians are starving. In the 'Gulf News' and in all the papers in Gulf, it has been reported that Indians are starving. Further, Sir Lankan Embassy, Pakistani embassy and other Embassies are sending food packets for their people. Then, I would like to know why India cannot do it. Secondly, Mr. Gujral is already there. Govt. Should tell this House all the information which they have got from him so far. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received a fax message from a friend of mine which is a newspaper report of 'Khaleej Times' from Dubai. It says that the refugees in Jordan are living on pavements. They are selling their clothes to buy food and they are even selling their cars for 100 to 150 dinars. The Government is making a false propaganda the everything is normal. This must be stopped. Basically what the people want is food and shelter which is just tentage only. The Government must make arrangements to provide security and food to these people. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): The House has been misled totally. It was projected in the TV that the passengers are coming and are saying that things are very good. This is absolutely false. They are misleading the House. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): The Government has started information centres at various places but not a single information is available regarding the people in Kuwait. This is only an eye-wash. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not divide the House on this issue.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): A statement should be made on the Floor of the House as to how many Indians are still there, how many want to come here and the arrangements made for their coming back. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): 75000 people are there. Some are coming back. What about their rehabilitation? The Government of Kerala has submitted a plan for Rs. 750 crores for their rehabilitation. The people who are coming from there are unemployed. We have to chalk out

a strategy for them also. As these people are unemployed now, the Government of Kerala has submitted a plan for Rs. 750 crores. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIDINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Sir, you would have noticed that the whole House and in fact, the whole country is deeply concerned about this matter. At the very beginning, we had suggested to the Government that they might send somebody from here to see what best they can do. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He says that the Minister is already there. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMADAN LAL KHURANA: No doubt the Minister is there but the Government is here. The Government should give a reply as to what transpired between them.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): You are not allowing him to reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Valuable time was lost at the very beginning when it was possible to send somebody before the whole situation had heated up so much. One could have arranged a ship or something to bring them out and they could have reached here with some kind of their possessions. Then, the Government, in their arrogance said that they do not need to send anybody. Then they sent the Minister and then they sent a special representative. Now, they have sent the Foreign Minister and yet, we do not know what is happening there. This is the whole tragedy of the situation. This trouble has been created by the arrogance of the Government. Otherwise, people could have come out smoothly without any difficulty. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Utmost urgency was shown in this matter. Firstly, Mr. Arif Mohd. Khan was sent there and Foreign Minister has again gone there. He went to Baghdad. He met not only the Iraqi authorities but also the Indians who arrived there..(Interruptions) He has gone to Kuwait. Both, he and Mr. Arif Mohd. Khan are expected today and tomorrow full details will be given to the House as to how and what arrangements have been made Iraqi authorities have assured all help to the Indians. The routes have been decided. Whoever wants to come may come. It is not correct to say that all the one lakh and fifty thousand people want to come away here. Arrangements have been made for those who want to come here and a full statement will be made as soon as the Ministers arrive. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): A statement should be made every day giving whatever information is available with you. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIBANSILAL (Bhiwani): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given a notice for discussion under Rules 193 on the Meham incident where atrocities were committed on a large scale. The ex-Chief Minister and his family had a hand in the atrocities and murders committed there. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister both of them said on the floor of the House that they would get the incident inquired into by the C. B. I and a sitting judge of the Supreme court. But it is a matter of regret that two to three months have already passed, neither a C. B. I. enquiry has been conducted nor a sitting judge of Supreme Court has been appointed to enquire into the matter, merely an ex-judge of the Supreme Court has been appointed.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would request you to arrange a discussion on it as early as possible. The ex-Chief Minister, his family and his sons are the murderers. As such a discussion in this regard should be ex-allowed as early as possible. If an enquiry is not made, the ex-chief Minister and his sons will, go scot free.

Please allow a discussion as early as possible. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT(Jaunpur): I want to raise a point of order Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order now. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

12.26 1/2 hrs.

RE: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF
BLOCKADE OF CRUDE OIL SUPPLY
FROM ASSAM

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): I have been trying since yesterday to draw the attention of the House to this very urgent and very serious matter which is taking place in the State of Assam. The blockade of crude oil supplies from Assam due to the agitation which is being carried on there by the All Assam Students Union has produced a result now where three major oil refineries have been closed down. The refinery at Barauni and the other two refineries ironically enough situated in Assam itself one in Bongaigaon and another in Guwahati-are closed down. At a time when there is such a petroleum and oil crisis facing the country, the Minister has been telling us about it in detail, it is expected to get worse because of the Middle-East events and all that, at such a moment if crude oil supplies are completely stopped from these oil refineries of ours, we can understand what is going to happen. I want to