

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be raised like this. Let me see if it can be admitted and then only I can give consent.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (V.S.Palghat): Tens of thousands of Malayalees had to flee Kuwait after its invasion by Iraq last year, leaving behind all their savings. As a temporary measure of help to these people, the Government of India fixed the exchange rate of Dinar. But this was very low. Even at the time of crisis in Kuwait, the exchange rate of Dinar was more than sixty rupees, but the Government of India paid them only Rs.25. They were assured by the Government that when normalcy is restored, the balance amount would be paid. Today the circumstances have changed and the present exchange rate of Kuwait Dinar is Rs.85. When these people approached the banks for the balance amount, they have been told by the bank authorities that nothing could be done without the permission of the Government.

Although the Government has helped these people in many ways, many of them are not able to go back to Kuwait. In this situation, it is only just and proper that they should be paid the existing exchange rate of Dinar.

Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would request him to help these people. They have earned valuable foreign exchange for our country. Most of them have come back leaving all their savings there. So, at least on humanitarian grounds, you should help them.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday you had come to me and you had informed me as to what you are going to raise today. If it can be admitted; if it can go on record, it will go on record otherwise, I will put it out of the record.

So, you shall have to make the statement very carefully. I am allowing you to make the statement but I will see if it can go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWAR RAO (Bapatia): Sir, in the State of Andhra Pradesh a series of incidents took place resulting in a huge loss to the Government exchequer, that too not in rupee but in foreign exchange. The loss is not in a single digit; not one crore, ten crores or hundred crores, but it is coming to thousands of crores.

One granite mine, worth about Rs.5,000 crores, has been found in Ongole district of Andhra Pradesh. It is spread over to 150 acres of land and has the depth of 30 metre. Out of this, 60 acres of land coasting about Rs. 2,500 crores has been sold to four persons. About hundred applicants, who have got export oriented projects, were denied the opportunity and in the morning an application was taken from the Member named .....\* .....

MR. SPEAKER: The name will not go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: And the next day they allotted about 60 acres of mining lease worth about Rs.2,500 crores to four persons.

MR. SPEAKER: Reference to State Legislature's activity will not go on record.

SHRID. VENKATESWARA RAO: They cancelled this lease. This prima facie shows that the State Government is guilty of it.

The other incident which we brought to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and other ministries is regarding Singareni Collieries. Singareni Collieries have got an Open Cast Mining Stage II project which is estimated to cost about Rs. 270 crores. But, unfortunately the Singareni Collieries bogged down and went for the German technology which costs about Rs.470 crores. In the

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

beginning stage, the Singareni Collieries passed a resolution on the 21st January, 1991 requesting in the reduction in the cost of project by Rs.35 crores. After 30 days they passed another resolution, without caring for the earlier resolution, and they straightaway said that they are going to enter into a contract whereby there has been about Rs.200 crores loss to the Government exchequer, which is again in the foreign exchange.

Then there is another thing. The World Bank has given about Rs. 217 million crores for the Sri Sailam project in the State of Andhra Pradesh. There were about 35 applicants. Out of these 35 applicants the conditions were laid down in such a manner that only five were able to get the order. There also, about Rs.90 crores in excess was given and there was an exchange of the order of about Rs.14 crores between the Government and the main parties. The result is that there is no need for any external aid. About Rs. 700 crore was given for Cyclone Relief Fund by the World Bank but that was utilised by their own people. The work was entrusted to them on a nomination basis.

Why should we bring all the money from outside? Every time, the hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister use to tell us that we are in a great financial crisis. Our external debt is so much, our deficit is so much and so on. Thousands of crores of rupees are wasted like this. So, we are borrowing money from outside, that is from the World Bank and so on, and we are wasting it. It is a matter of shame for people like us, who are sitting here and watching and not doing anything. If such types of malpractices are done by high officials, then we demand a high-powered Committee to go into this *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narsapur): Sir, we demand that a high-powered Committee should be appointed to go into the merits of the case.*(Interruptions)*\*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record. Please take your seats. I am standing. You know that one your colleagues had done it very ably. Why do you want just to speak at one and the same time?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: We are demanding that a high-powered Committee should be appointed by the Prime Minister to go into this.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing reference to the Committee of the Legislature, in this House. Suppose if you are to the activities etc. in other Legislatures, they will also refer to your activities here. Please understand it. I have said that your colleague has done it quite rightly and you do not have to repeat it. It is not necessary. We are coming to the fag end of this Session. There are many Members who also want to raise their issues. I am going to allow them in deference to their wishes. Please sit down now.

*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARPAL PANWAR (Kairana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Delhi-Saharanpur via Baraut-Shamli Railway line. The Government of India has withdrawn 9 small halts on this Railway line. The line passes through 3 districts i.e. Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Saharanpur. The roads in this area are narrow but the density of population is high. So the withdrawing of the halt facility on this line will create a lot of problems for the people. Keeping in view the agriculture importance of the area, it is the most vital part of U.P. Sir, through you I would request the Government of India to review its decision and restore the halt facility immediately. Otherwise the people of the area will have no alternative but to launch an agitation on this issue which may result in blockade of roads and trains and we