

[The Deputy Chairman]

for anything else. I said, along with all of you, the entire House and the Chair are concerned, and I want the Leader of the House to convey the sentiments of the House to the Government and take action on that. Beyond that we cannot do anything just now. Let us continue. Otherwise, some other Member will walk out... (*Interruptions*)... I said it now. Why can't you hear what I said? Sit down now. Yes, Mr. Jacob.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: He should come out with a statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not understand what the use of repeating it is. It is all right... (*Interruptions*)... Miss Saroj Khaparde, by repeating the same thing you are not going to get anything. I said it. Now take your seat.

Evacuation of Indians Stranded in Kuwait

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jacob, please speak on Kuwait, (*Interruptions*) Do you want to speak or you do not want to speak?

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Kuwait is important equally. At the same time women also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak.

SHRI M. M. JACOB (Kerala): Please allow me.

Madam, I am thankful for allowing me to raise this important issue in the House now. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now if Mr. Jacob cannot be heard, you all will be responsible. Let him speak on Kuwait. There are women over there also whose lives are

also in danger, for whom we should be concerned. They are also Indians. Then there may be Harijans also, who knows.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I know the matter I am going to raise is above all party considerations and cutting across everybody because this is human problem which is more than any other problem.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: You make us sit down. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't make any comments please. It is better. Let him speak.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I will not comment on the Kuwait policy or the Gulf policy of the Government though I have got many things to say against the present Government's policy on Gulf. I have many things to say about the Delhi Declaration of 1986, how we looked at it and how we failed in it now.

But I am coming to one point straight away and that is the plight of the refugees who are coming out, Indian refugees who are coming out of Kuwait. From the Government media we are given to understand that everything is safe in Kuwait, that we must be happy that they must be safe. I wish it were so. But alarming reports are also coming. I don't want you to get alarmed immediately.

This morning I got a very important telephone call from London. A friend of mine, who is a Professor in London who has nothing to do with politics, rang me up and said, "Are you sleeping even now?" I was surprised. I asked, "Why?" He said, "From Kuwait, through Jordan, thousands and thousands of people are coming out. The

Pakistani Embassy is there to provide vehicles, transport and food and things like that for pakistani nationals who are coming out. The Filipinos are there with their Embassy staff providing vehicles. Even buses are provided. Th'e' Indians are not providing anything.

After about 10—30 I got the news of the "KHALEEL TIMES" dated 19th, yesterday. I got it as fax message about what is happening. It has been reported in the "KHALEEL TIMES" which is known to you, Madam, this paper. It says:

"'There is no food, no shelter,' said one of the refugees in an interview with the BBC yesterday. The fleeing Indians are forced to sell their belongings for a song to get a few dollars to buy food. Some of the refugees are even selling their 1990 model cars between \$ 100 and \$ 150. Their poignant accounts belie the Indian Government's claim that Delhi is trying to help its countrymen in whatever way possible."

Madam, the more alarming part is:

"According to Indian Embassy about 200 people have arrived in Amman so far. The refugees say that they are sleeping on the pavements. For food, many are even rushing to the Sri Lankan Embassy. They argue that if the Lankan Embassy can provide them with food and shelter, there is no reason why the Indian Mission cannot do so. The Indian Embassy says that they are waiting for instructions from Delhi to make arrangements for their return to India."

(In interruptions)

SHRI JOAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): What nonsense.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Madam, it was really a shocking news when I read it.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): यह तो चिन्ताजनक स्थिति है ।

उपसभापति : उन्हें बोलने तो दीजिए । आप बीच में बोल देते हैं । उनकी बात रिकार्ड नहीं होती । सुनने तो दीजिए कि क्या कह रहे हैं । मैं तो पूरा सुन भी नहीं पाती हूँ ।

SHRI M. M. JACOB:

"From Saudi Arabia, Saudi newspapers quoted some of the 500 Indian refugees arriving in Saudi Arabia, that according to the All India Radio that the situation in Kuwait was returning to normal, is not correct. On the contrary the situation in Kuwait is on the boil. And the Indian refugees said, the food is scarce, water is in short supply and super markets are empty. The little that is scraped up by standing in day-long queues, is snatched by gun-toting Iraqis. The Indian identified as S.S. Raju says, "Unless hundreds of thousands of remaining Indians in Kuwait are evacuated within a week, they are doomed to perish."

Madam, this is why I raised this question. I am glad at last Mr. Gujral has gone to Baghdad. Actually Mr. Gujral should have rushed to Baghdad on August 3, if not on August 2, when the news came that 1,800 Indians are in Kuwait and Iraq has captured or conquered Kuwait.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jacob, the number is not 1,800, but it is 180,000.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Madam, the problem is that they have to first take permission from Washington and then they can go there.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It is only when Washington agrees, they can go there.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The point that is really paining me is this. We know these situations happen when a warlike situation takes place. Then there will be periods of tensions. There may be Indians who may like to work in Baghdad and Kuwait also. We don't know. Though the Minister himself in his statement the other day, which was circulated here, said there is no communication link between Kuwait and India, there is no method of knowing what is happening inside there, the question that is to be replied is this. When you don't have any contact, you propagate that everything is safe. But people coming out through other areas like Jordan and Saudi Arabia say the things there are in a bad shape; it is the urgent duty of the Government of India now even at the cost of suspending some of the Airline flights or I would go to the extent of requesting the Government to take out its Airbus A-320 now and send it to Amman and to Saudi Arabia. The Indians who are stranded there are ready to fly in any aircraft. Whatever aircraft you provide to them, they are prepared to fly back. It is a question of human misery and suffering. If there is no heart for the Government to act according to what is wanted at this time, I don't have anything to say. I don't want to accuse the Government at this point of time because it is beyond their decision. All parties must join unanimously and see how this operation could be done very quickly and immediately without wasting any more time on this. *(Interruptions)* Madam, I draw the attention of the Government through you to this alarming situation and stress that something has to be done today by the Government to see what is

If it is correct, then please ameliorate the situation; please redeem the condition of the people and do something about it.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I want to associate myself with Mr. Jacob on this point. *(Interruptions)* Madam, there are some reports that some women were raped there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't make such comments until and unless you are sure of any news. Please don't go by rumours. I have allowed Mr. Baby to speak.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Thank you very much for having given me permission to associate myself with Mr. Jacob on this particular question we know there can be no two opinions in the House or in the country. We are all equally concerned about the condition of the Indians in Kuwait or in Iraq and in the Gulf region. There are certain inadequacies in the handling of the situation also. I hope that the Government of India will take cognisance of it and whatever possibly could be done on the part of the Government of India would be done.

I met Prof. Dandavate and discussed with him over the question of extending financial assistance to those who have returned because in the international market the value of the Gulf Dinar was having a steep fall and now its value is zero practically. I appreciate the Government of India for having taken the initiative to fix the exchange value of Dinar at Rs. 25, though I do feel that it would have been better if Rs. 50 had been fixed. But at least this decision of fixing Rs. 25 as the exchange value is something good and appreciable. Similarly Rs. 5,000 is being given presently to those affected. That is very much inadequate. While

Government of India in taking a decision to provide Rs. 5,000, we submit it should at least be taken up to Rs. 25,000. During my discussion with Mr. Dandavate I have been promised that the Government of India is trying to mobilise other financial agencies because the Government of India by itself cannot take up the whole responsibility. So, different banks, LIC and other financial institutions, on which the Government can exert some pressure, the Government of India has been trying to press their services. We would like to know how far the Government could work on this. We expect when Mr. Gujral comes back, there will be a full statement on the situation. I hope that no effort would be spared in ensuring the safety and security of the Indian citizens in Kuwait. You know we are all more concerned because the majority of Indians who are there are from our State. Therefore, the State Government has sent one Minister to the Gulf countries and he is also helping the Government of India officials and representatives over there in coordinating this thing. I think on this particular thing our political differences should not come in the way of helping them. We are all concerned equally about the whole situation. I request the Government that whatever loopholes are there in extending assistance should be plugged. A very serious point is there. The Government of India has opened two cells and two telephone numbers have been given but most of the time there is no reply from these telephone numbers. I had spoken to Gujralji before he left India and something should be done about these telephones because many telephone calls are received by us and we are not in a position to provide any information back to these people. So some serious effort should be made about that. Thank you Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

I hope the Government will take a serious note of the situation and whatever latest information is available with them they could inform the House.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र ((बिहार): हम ज्यादा टाइम नहीं लेगे। हम अपने को इस स्पेशल मेंशन से एसोसियेट करते हैं। दो बातें सिर्फ हमें चाहना हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट डेली एक कम्प्यु नके दे कि हमारे कितने लोग आता चाहते हैं और कितने को हम ला सकते हैं।

The Government should come out with the latest information in the Press daily and Members of Parliament should be acquainted with that. Since the problem is enormous, I request the Government to take the help of the United Nations because it may not be possible for us to send so many aircraft to bring our people from there. So I want the world opinion should be ascertained particularly the United Nations should be asked to help us at this juncture to bring our people who want to come back and those who want to remain there they can stay there.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, millions of relatives and family members of expatriats in Kuwait from Kerala are now spending sleepless nights for the last two weeks. I fully associate with the special mention made by my colleague, Shri M.M. Jacob. I only request two things to be done by the Government. (1) The Government should arrange to collect letters through the Indian embassy from the Gulf countries and despatch them to their relatives. That is my first request. (2) The Government should depute a senior Minister to the Gulf countries in charge of these operations and issue a statement daily from there about the latest situation there.

The Government of Kerala have prepared a scheme for the

[Shri A. K. Antony]

rehabilitation of the Gulf-returnees by providing a sum of Rs. 750 crores. The Government of India should give its clearance to this scheme. So far the people of Kerala and also people from other States, are not happy with whatever steps the Government has taken. The Government of India should realise the deep sentiments of the relatives and friends. They should understand our feelings. That is what I would like to say.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, when are we taking up the National Commission for Women Bill, 1990?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After we finish the special mentions.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: But at 4 o'clock there is a short duration discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me try to expedite the special mentions but I need your cooperation. Now, Mr. Viren J. Shah. Mr. Shah, you have heard our conversation between us. So please help us to expedite the special mentions.

Reported escape of Maj. Gen.
V.P. Gupta

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra): Madam, your conversation is also recorded here as much as what I am saying is being recorded..(Interruptions)..

Madam, I am raising, if it is true, about a matter which is of serious concern, though different from the other two matters raised earlier. There was a report in yesterday's *Sunday Mail* under the title "Fugitive General escapes again." Why it is of concern is (a) that this person was in charge

Keeping Force in Sri Lanka. As per the newspaper report, they have made inquiries and found not only this Major-General involved in a racket of about Rs. 20 crores but a Brigadier, a Colonel and others were also involved. Now, in that case, this person, Major-General Gupta, as mentioned in *The SUNDAY MAIL*, was arrested and was being brought from Bombay to Delhi by train with him two army officers escorting and he escaped from the train three months back. Last week, the beginning of August, he was seen in Delhi by the officers of the Intelligence Bureau and the Central Bureau of Investigation who immediately alerted the army authorities as per this report. Now this report goes on to say that despite this because of some concern at very high level in the army—I personally believe that the Indian army is above reproach, and that is why I am concerned about it—deliberately he was not apprehended and even now this Major-General Gupta, accused of a 20 crore rupee racket in supplying food articles to our forces in Sri Lanka is still allowed to remain scot-free. If this is so, if the report is true or even partly true, it is a matter of serious concern because it casts aspersions on Indian army which I and no one else would like to stand. So, this is a matter which the Government should consider and if it is true, then it should find out why it is being done and the General should be apprehended.

Neglect of candidates from Tamil Nadu in selection of teachers for central schools

SHRI J. S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government a grave injustice being done to the non-Hindi-speaking people, the Tamils in particular. The Central Schools situated all over the country recruit hundreds of teachers every year. Till the year 1936 the norms of selections were all right. There was no complaint from any quarters. But I