

## RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 30th July, 1982/8<sup>th</sup>!  
Shravana, 1904 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the  
clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

\*301. *[The questioner (Shri  
J. Gannathrao Joshi) was absent.  
For answer vide Col 36 to 41 infra]*

#### **Indian nationals killed and captured during Israel-PLO conflict**

02. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: f  
SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the  
recent Israel-PLO conflict several  
Indian nationals working in Lebanon  
were killed and captured by Israel;  
and

(b) if so, what are the details in  
this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V.  
NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b)  
Four Indian nationals have been  
killed.

Reports indicate that a few Indians  
are in Israeli captivity along with  
several others of different  
nationalities. However, due to  
prevailing conditions, it has not been  
possible to confirm these reports.

The Embassy has been instructed  
by the Government of India to give  
all possible assistance. The Embassy  
is in close touch with the  
International Red Cross authorities  
who had earlier alerted their units  
regarding the safety of Indian  
nationals.

fThe question was actually asked  
on the floor of the House by Shri  
Biswa Goswarhi.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Sir,  
the hon. Minister has said that four  
Indians have been killed and several  
others are in Israeli captivity. Sir, I  
want to know from the hon. Minister  
as to the circumstances under which  
these Indians were killed and the  
concrete steps the Government has  
taken for the release of those who are  
still in captivity. And why were they  
arrested?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:  
Sir, some newspapers, including the  
Indian Express of July 3, carried  
reports based on information  
disclosed by a Canadian national that  
an unspecified number of Asians,  
including Indians, were among those  
imprisoned in Sidon, South Lebanon  
by Israelis and severely beaten.  
However, the reports stated: "There  
were not so many from India". On  
July 3, the spokesman of this  
Ministry told newsmen that the  
Government of India had noted this  
report with considerable distress and  
the Indian diplomatic mission in the  
area had been asked to confirm  
whether in fact any Indians had been  
maltreated by Israelis. Our Embassy  
in Beirut has since reported that out  
of approximately 150 Indians in  
South Lebanon, 72 are working in  
different factories. According to the  
information available with them, out  
of 40 who were arrested, 13 have  
since been released and are working  
in Sidon. 27 are still under detention.  
The whereabouts of another 32 are  
not immediately known to the  
Embassy and the conditions there  
being what they are. It is not possible  
for the embassy to trace each and  
every individual in spite of all the  
efforts; and efforts are still going on.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Why  
were they arrested?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:  
They were not arrested for anyth-

ing. They were in the area and they were taken into custody as everybody else has been taken into custody. How do we know why they have been arrested? This is not available with us. When a war is on, some people found in the area are put under detention and later released.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Sir. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already asked two questions.

SHRI R. R. MORARKA: No, only one question he has asked.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: I want to know whether the Government have taken serious note of it. I want to know also whether there has been a shift in its policy towards Israel which can be found from the decision of the Asaid Committee which says that Israelis would not be invited to the Asiad because the Israeli sportsmen cannot be given protection. This is the only reason it has no other reason that Israel would not be invited. We have not taken any strong action.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Let us confine ourselves to the question. We have taken immediate steps to trace the whereabouts of these persons. I have given the number of persons whose whereabouts have been traced, others have not been traced, but we are in close touch with the International Red Cross through whom we function. We have no diplomatic relations directly with Israel. So we could not possibly have gone to them. The only link between them and us is the International Red Cross and they are doing their best. We have not only approached the International Red Cross in Beirut, we have also

Cross in Geneva from here. They have given instructions to their unit in Beirut and everything that is possible in the circumstances is being done.

श्री संयुक्त सिद्धि रज्जी : मान्यवर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि भारतीय निवासियों के खिलाफ इजराइल के दूत जिस तरह का दुर्व्यवहार कर रहे हैं, क्या उसकी वजह यह नहीं है कि भारत का जो स्टैंड इजराइल के खिलाफ है, उस स्टैंड से पीड़ित होकर भारतीय नागरिकों के खिलाफ विशेष तौर पर जो वहां पर है, इस किस्म की हरकतें हो रही हैं और दूसरे देश के नागरिकों के खिलाफ इस किस्म की हरकतें नहीं हो रही हैं बल्कि भारत-वासियों पर अपने गुस्से का इजहार करने के लिए जो भारत ने इजराइल के खिलाफ किया है, इस किस्म की हरकतें की जा रही हैं ? क्या सरकार इस किस्म की हरकतों को रोकने के लिए कोई उपाय कर रही है ?

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : मान्यवर, जो आज हम सोच रहे हैं कि यह सब हो रहा है, हमारे पास इसके फैक्ट्स नहीं हैं जिनके आधार पर यह समझे कि यह सब सचमुच हो रहा है । एक अखबार में खबर निकली और एक कॅनेडियन ने कहा, उसका यहां उद्धरण दिया गया । हम पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि हालात क्या हैं । आप जानते हैं कि यह इतना आसान नहीं है । हो सकता है कि उनका गम और गुस्सा जो भी हम पर है, उसके मद्देनजर वह इस तरह का बर्ताव कर रहे हों, लेकिन हमारे पास जो भी फैक्ट्स हैं उनके आधार पर यह पक्की बात नहीं लगती ।