

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Tarun Vijay.

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Tarun Vijay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha): Sir, this is a very serious matter. If the Government can respond to this, it will be good. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a matter of human rights. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All names of those who are associating should be recorded. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, वे मॉइनारिटीज हैं। उनके राइट्स के पक्ष में गवर्नमेंट को रेसपांड करना चाहिए। मैं यह कह रहा था ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Government must respond to this. This is a very serious matter. They are in a minority and they have been forcibly converted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is responding.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, it falls in the domain of the State Government. We will convey the feelings of the Members to the concerned State Government.

### **Indian hostages held by somalian pirates**

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, on 17th March this year, an Indian ship, MT Royal Grace, was hijacked by Somalian pirates in the Nigerian waters. Seventeen Indians and other crew members were taken hostage with the ship. Even after eight months of this incident, the distraught family members of these people who have been taken hostage, have no information about their safety and well-being and are going through a tumultuous time.

Recently, some of the family members received information that the owner of the ship, who was untraceable earlier, is now available and has arranged for the ransom amount demanded by the pirates for the release of the hostages. The ship owner is in close contact with the officials of the Nigerian Government and is seeking security for the safe transfer of the ransom amount to the pirates.

Sir, the solution to this crisis appears to be in its final stage, but is getting presumably held up due to the delay by our Government to reach out to the Nigerian Government. This crisis can be resolved if the Ministry of Shipping synergizes its efforts with the Ministry of External Affairs to approach the Nigerian Government officials, ensures their cooperation in the matter and provides security to the owner of the ship so that he can reach out to the pirates and secure the release of the hostages.

I urge the Government to urgently take action on this humanitarian issue to expedite the release of these hostages without any further delay.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, they met the Defence Minister, the Prime Minister and all the Ministers. ...(Interruptions)... Family members were arrested by the police and they were beaten up in front of the Office of the External Affairs Minister and all the family members put up a dharna here. For the last more than one year, hundreds have been injured. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You associate. ...(Interruptions)... All those names have to be recorded. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): सर, उसमें एक व्यक्ति बुरी तरह से बीमार है...।

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठ जाइए। It is recorded.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, बहुत बुरी तरह से बीमार है, उसे मेडिकल ऐड भी नहीं मिल रही है। ...(व्यवधान)... उसके ए.सी. बंद कर दिये गये हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all associate. *...(Interruptions)*

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, ए.सी. बंद कर दिए गए हैं और उसको कोई मेडिकल ऐड नहीं दी जा रही है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is there. You have made your point. *...(Interruptions)...* आप बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* खन्ना जी, आप बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* आप बैठिए। आप बैठिए। *...(व्यवधान)...* This a question of some Indians held captive for months and it is a concern not only of those Members but it is a concern of all of us. I would like the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to take it up with the concerned Department and Minister to do the needful in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, whenever such incident had taken place in the past also, the Government had acted upon them. A lot many persons were freed from the clutches of hostages. In this case also, I will bring the matter to the notice of the External Affairs Minister and a provision has been made by which several countries, in a coordinated way, try to act against pirates and save the lives of such people. So, we will definitely convey the feelings of the House to them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Now, Special Mentions. *...(Interruptions)...* Nothing will go on record. *...(Interruptions)...* Nothing will go on record. That is over. Take your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* No more questions, take your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* Take your seats. *...(Interruptions)...* I am going to take up Special Mentions. I would request the hon. Members to mention the subject and lay it on the Table. There is no time for reading because there are 44 Special Mentions. *...(Interruptions)...* Mention the subject and lay it on the Table.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): It is a Special Mention. We have to mention it. It is not the practice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no time to take it up. *...(Interruptions)...* Then, I can't take up.

SHRI D. RAJA: Let us do the work.\* *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is expunged. That is not only an aspersion but a direct allegation against the Chair. I think Raja would not like to make such an allegation.

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Last time also similar issue came up. I pleaded with the Chair that very purpose of making a Special Mention is to draw the attention of the House, of the Government and also of the country. That is a loss if the Member is not allowed to make his Special Mention.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said, mention the subject. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We are Parliament. We are spending crores of rupees on Parliament and on such important issues. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...(Interruptions)... I am taking a decision. You allow me to say.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated): You had said, "Please mention the subject. If you want to read it out, do it at 5 o'clock." Please remember that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What Dr Ganguly has said that is okay. I will be happy to follow what Dr Ganguly has said. Now, I am open to the House ...(Interruptions)... If the House feels that all the 44 Special Mentions should be allowed to be read, I have no objection. Is it the sense of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No discussion.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Mr Deputy Chairman, I have a suggestion to make for your kind consideration that those Members who wish to read the entire thing will have the option to do so. Other Members who wish to read only the subject could do that. That will save some time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Those Members who are particular to read their Special Mentions can read. Other Members can mention the subject of their Special Mentions, and lay it on the Table of the House. That is my ruling.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Thank you.

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#### SPECIAL MENTIONS

##### **\*Need to revamp structural and intellectual aspects of diplomacy of the country**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Rabinarayan Mohapatra, not present. Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya, not present.

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\*Laid on the Table.