

[19 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Human Rights abuses in Iraq

#*350. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Indians in Iraq are suffering from Human Rights abuses;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether many Indians are illegally detained there; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government has no information that thousands of Indians in Iraq are suffering from human rights abuses. However, the Government has received occasion complaints from Indian workers alleging ill-treatment and exploitation by their employers in Iraq. Such instance have been taken up with concerned employer/contractor, and assistance extended in repatriating the interested Indian workers. Government has no information of many Indians being illegally detained in Iraq.

Help for Indians in Iraq

#*357. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 5000 Indians are in Iraq and as many as 11 have lost their lives;
- (b) if so, whether Government have decided to provide all help to the Indians who want to return back;
- (c) if so, whether any concrete steps and measures have been taken to help them;
- (d) whether a number of Indians were held hostages in Iraq by militant group;

Discussed together.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Prema Cariappa.