

**Need to enhance baggage allowance to Indian expatriates returning home**

SHRI MP. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I draw the attention of the august House to a very serious issue which is being faced by Indians employed abroad. They go to foreign countries, leaving their families here, for finding some solution to the problem for their sustenance. After working hard there, they return to the country by purchasing necessary things for their nearest and dearest back home. But, unfortunately, the existing baggage allowance permitted to them is only up to Rs. 12,000. The salary of an Indian worker, for example, in UAE is estimated approximately at AED1,200. Those employed abroad come on vacations only once in every two or three years. Naturally, their two or three months' salary will be set apart to buy some necessary things for their families, relatives and some gifts for their friends. All these contribute a share to their baggage. Unfortunately, the Indian rupee also has devalued considerably and it has increased the price level index in economy. So, the limit of Rs. 12,000 is a very small amount, as far as the economic condition of expatriate passengers is concerned. I, therefore, request the Government to enhance the baggage allowance from the present level to a reasonable level. It is to be fixed, at least, equal to three or four times of the average salary of an Indian worker in the country where he is employed. Sir, provision can be made for a periodic revision of the allowance according to the changes in the economy. The enhancement in allowance will smoothen the custom process and will help to solve so many problems they face during their journey back to their mother country. This will be an act of mercy to Indians working abroad from the Government.

SHRI CO. POULOSE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with this Special mention.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special mention.

**Need to deploy special task force to capture forest brigand Veerappan**

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, my Special Mention is about the capture of forest brigand Veerappan who has murdered more than 200 people. The ever-elusive Veerappan, the notorious forest brigand

operating from jungles bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for quite some years, is hogging headlines in national dailies once again. Unlike past occasions, when abducted persons were let off by him, he has fired the fatal shot this time, causing the demise of the former Karnataka Minister, Shri Nagappa. The Government of Karnataka has taken it as a challenge and has vowed to weed out and eliminate him in a combing-cum-capture process which is launched.

Sir, It is imperative that a Centrally-sponsored special task force be deployed in the problem area to nab the brigand, since our armed forces have special combat groups familiar with the jungle warfare and have adequate exposure to topographical features of the terrain similar to MM Forest Range—Satyamangalam areas of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Therefore, it would be expedient to spare such a force to track down and capture the brigand, once for all.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with this.

SHRI DINESHTRIVEDI (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special Mention.

### **Need to establish Indian National Gramin Bank**

**डा० कुमकुम राय (बिहार) :** क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंको की स्थापना के पीछे तत्कालीन सरकार की अवधारणा थी कि भारतीय गांवों में जहां आबादी का 75 प्रतिशत हिस्सा जो ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था से सीधे सरोकार रखता है, को महाजनी मकड़जाल से मुक्ति दिलाकर कृषि ग्रामीण उधोग, लघु उधोग, कुटीर उधोग आदि में वित्तीय सहायता ग्रामीण बैंक प्रदान कर ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ बनाया जाए। इस उद्देश्य में देश के कई राज्यों में सफलचित्र नजर भी आए। किन्तु दिनांक 11.12.2002 को ऑल इंडिया ग्रामीण बैंक वर्कर्स आर्गनाइजेशन एवं आफिसर्स आर्गनाइजेशन के आहवाहन पर देश के 23 राज्यों में कार्यरत 196 आर०आर०बी० से आए हजारों ग्रामीण बैंक कर्मियों ने संसद मार्ग पर प्रदर्शन किया। उनकी मांग है कि ग्रामीण साख व्यवस्था को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए देश के 196 आर०आर०बी० को मिलाकर शीघ्र संसद में विधेयक लाकर भारतीय राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक की स्थापना की जाए क्योंकि सभी 196 बैंकों को मिलाकर यह आर०आर०बी० लाभ अर्जित कर रही है। दिनांक 31.3.2001 तक कुल 1265 करोड़ रुपए की रिजर्व राशि जमा है जो राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक के गठन के लिए समुचित है। 28 अगस्त, 1992 को नाबार्ड के अध्यक्ष एवं 5.9.92 को भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक समेत अन्य व्यवसायिक बैंकों के ग्रुप के द्वारा भी इस मांग को स्वीकृत किया गया था। वित्त मंत्रालय की स्थाई संसदीय समिति ने भी अपनी चौथी रिपोर्ट में भारतीय राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक के गठन की अनुशंसा की थी। लोक सभा में 1993 से ही विभिन्न दलों