

Title: Urged upon the Government to take steps to save the Indian citizens in Saudi Arabia from being imprisoned or executed on the charge of drug trafficking by extending legal assistance to them.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue before this House. ...(*Interruptions*) There is a news item in the *Hindustan Times* today "Indians on death row 'get no help". An alarmingly large number of Keralites are being put to the sword in Saudi Arabia on charges of drug trafficking in recent times and, in most cases, Indian Missions come to know about the executions only after the event.

Sir, the Indians, on the death row -- numbering 25, do not get any legal assistance from the Indian Government as the Embassies in Riyadh and Jeddah are kept in dark about the executions.

The issue assumes significance in view of the forthcoming visit of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, to Saudi Arabia. Seven Keralites were executed in Saudi Arabia last year and many Indians are facing capital punishment as they are victims of the drug and other mafia as they exploit the youth and spoil their career.

My request to the Government is, at least, our missions abroad should provide legal assistance to these people and proper information should be given to their relatives in Kerala and other parts of the country. Unfortunately, our missions fail in this and these people are not getting any kind of legal assistance. The officials or our Embassies rarely visit these people who are in the jails there.

This is a very serious issue. Twenty-five other Keralites, many of them are women, are still in Saudi jails and their relatives are not aware of these facts. So, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to redress their grievances urgently.

Thank you...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling the names according to the list. Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Murthi's submission.

(*Interruptions*)*