

Title: Regarding release of compensations claimed by the Indian victims of the Gulf War from the United Nations' Compensation Commission.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to bring to the attention of this august House and also the Government, through you, a matter of great importance. Even after the lapse of ten years since the Gulf war in 1990-91, thousands of Indians, especially Keralites are yet to receive their compensation claims from the United Nations' Compensation Commission. The Commission has recognised some claims but there is an inordinate and unpardonable delay in releasing the claims. In certain other cases, it is more pathetic. The claims are not recognised by the Commission. The Government of India is adopting a very complacent attitude and giving a routine reply on technical grounds that these people who had come from Kuwait leaving everything and fleeing to save their lives had not registered their claims in the United Nations' Compensation Commission's form.

The Government of India has a responsibility towards these Indians who have served India through foreign exchange earnings. While they were working there, they were actually indirectly serving the cause of India also. So, this attitude of the Government has to be condemned. I appeal to the Government of India, especially the Ministry of External Affairs to take up the issue and re-examine the issue. They should reopen the issue with the United Nations' Compensation Commission and if necessary with the United Nations Organisation.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, I have to say something on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are only to associate yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : The hon. lady Member has raised a very important point. I would just like to submit before this House that even though the United Nations has already granted the money which is now deposited in the bank, on very, very simple technical grounds, it has been denied to these people. The forms have not been given by the Ministry of External Affairs. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Abdullakutty, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and other Kerala MPs are associating themselves on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : This is a very important matter. Hundreds and hundreds of people are deprived of their claims. ...(Interruptions)