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Title : Regarding war-like situation in the Middle-East.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to invite the attention of this House through you that a very serious international situation has developed in Gaza in Palestine.

It has been stated by various media that more than 116 common people including women and children have already been killed by the Israeli forces attack. The attack was through air forces and they have already started naval attack. Any time, there may be a land attack also. It may reach a situation of a full-fledged war. Now, the Government of Israel has asked more than one lakh people to evacuate themselves from northern Gaza. It is a very serious concern and if this develops into a full-fledged war, may I remind the Government of India through you, Sir, that the future of millions of Indians working in the Middle Eastern nations will be in peril.

This month is the holy Ramzan month. But at the same time, for the last seven days, Israel has been continuously attacking and killing people. The latest information that we have received today evening is that there were already more than 1200 casualties.

So, I would like to request to the Government of India through you, Mr. Chairman Sir, that our Government should take the lead and we have to try our best to ensure a ceasefire in Gaza. We cannot, in any way, tolerate the attack conducted by the Israeli forces upon the Palestine people. If there is a war, of course, we can understand but it is not a full-fledged war now. It is an attack on the common people. More than 77 per cent of the people who have died and the casualties are the common people.

So, I am begging your Minister that this concerns the life and the future of the Indians also. I hope that the whole House may join with me in conveying our concerns to the Government of India. Many of the Cabinet Ministers are here now. It is our prime duty to condemn the killings. We are a non-aligned nation and we have to ensure a ceasefire. Israel will not concede to whatever the UN may say. Israel may not oblige to whatever UN may ask. We have to condemn the brutal killings by the Israeli forces. This House has to condemn the brutal killing of the Israeli forces. We cannot tolerate the poor people being killed by whatever means and methods.

HON. CHAIRPERSON :

Shri N.K. Premachandran is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Sampath.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, the hon. Minister is here. I request him to react because, in the morning also, Shri E. Ahamed raised this issue and now, the hon. Member is also raising the same issue. We all are so concerned about the matter. I request the Government to come forward and make a statement so that at least a message will go to those people who are residing there and they will get some consolation that there are people in India who are concerned about their lives and property.

So, I request the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to say something on this issue or make a statement tomorrow at least about this issue.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. A. Sampath, your concern has been conveyed to the hon. Minister. Now, Dr. Venugopal may speak.