

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be raised like this. Let me see if it can be admitted and then only I can give consent.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (V.S.Palghat): Tens of thousands of Malayalees had to flee Kuwait after its invasion by Iraq last year, leaving behind all their savings. As a temporary measure of help to these people, the Government of India fixed the exchange rate of Dinar. But this was very low. Even at the time of crisis in Kuwait, the exchange rate of Dinar was more than sixty rupees, but the Government of India paid them only Rs.25. They were assured by the Government that when normalcy is restored, the balance amount would be paid. Today the circumstances have changed and the present exchange rate of Kuwait Dinar is Rs.85. When these people approached the banks for the balance amount, they have been told by the bank authorities that nothing could be done without the permission of the Government.

Although the Government has helped these people in many ways, many of them are not able to go back to Kuwait. In this situation, it is only just and proper that they should be paid the existing exchange rate of Dinar.

Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would request him to help these people. They have earned valuable foreign exchange for our country. Most of them have come back leaving all their savings there. So, at least on humanitarian grounds, you should help them.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday you had come to me and you had informed me as to what you are going to raise today. If it can be admitted; if it can go on record, it will go on record otherwise, I will put it out of the record.

So, you shall have to make the statement very carefully. I am allowing you to make the statement but I will see if it can go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWAR RAO (Bapatia): Sir, in the State of Andhra Pradesh a series of incidents took place resulting in a huge loss to the Government exchequer, that too not in rupee but in foreign exchange. The loss is not in a single digit; not one crore, ten crores or hundred crores, but it is coming to thousands of crores.

One granite mine, worth about Rs.5,000 crores, has been found in Ongole district of Andhra Pradesh. It is spread over to 150 acres of land and has the depth of 30 metre. Out of this, 60 acres of land coasting about Rs. 2,500 crores has been sold to four persons. About hundred applicants, who have got export oriented projects, were denied the opportunity and in the morning an application was taken from the Member named .....\* .....

MR. SPEAKER: The name will not go on record.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: And the next day they allotted about 60 acres of mining lease worth about Rs.2,500 crores to four persons.

MR. SPEAKER: Reference to State Legislature's activity will not go on record.

SHRID. VENKATESWARA RAO: They cancelled this lease. This prima facie shows that the State Government is guilty of it.

The other incident which we brought to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and other ministries is regarding Singareni Collieries. Singareni Collieries have got an Open Cast Mining Stage II project which is estimated to cost about Rs. 270 crores. But, unfortunately the Singareni Collieries bogged down and went for the German technology which costs about Rs.470 crores. In the

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.