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Title: Demand to develop a long-term vision and a policy framework for rehabilitating and effectively absorbing skilled and unskilled Gulf returners.

**SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR):** Sir, I thank you very much. This is the first time that I am getting a chance to speak in 'Zero Hour'. Kindly allow me to finish it without time restriction.

I rise to express my deep concern about the critical issues affecting the Non-Resident Indians who have lost their jobs due to the nationalisation policies in the Gulf Coordination Countries. With declining NRI remittances, the crisis has begun to severely affect the State economies, especially that of Kerala.

At present, the schemes announced for Non-Resident Indians are, unfortunately, not effective at all for the families of Gulf returnees who have lost their jobs. I allege that the Centre, in this regard, has been consistently neglecting the crisis of the Gulf returnees.

As per Kerala Migration Survey, 2018, the number of Non-Resident Keralites living outside India has been estimated at 34.17 lakhs. In other words, one in every three houses in Kerala has a man or a woman working in Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

Over the years, they have sent to their homes more than one trillion Indian rupees according to data obtained from banks in Kerala. However, the crisis of Gulf returnees has adversely hit the economy of Kerala. In 2012, Kerala received Rs. 66,000 crore as deposits from

abroad and most of it came from Gulf nations. In 2013, it rose by 40 per cent to around Rs. 90,000 crore, but in 2014, unfortunately the deposits grew only by 15 per cent to just Rs. 1.04 trillion. What does this mean?

The number of land transactions has come down. The purchasing power of people has come down. The prices of stand-alone properties and apartments have come down by 30 per cent to 40 per cent. With lowered income of blue collared workers in the Gulf, purchase of gold, which is considered one of the favourite acquisitions of Malayalees, has been on a decline. My fear is that in the very near future, State economies, like that of Kerala, will face a panic situation.

It is high time for the Central Government to develop a long-term vision and a policy framework for rehabilitating and effectively absorbing the skilled and unskilled Gulf returnees back into our workforce.

I request the Centre to look into this crisis with utmost priority and to further develop measures to counter the loss of NRI remittances.

Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** श्री एन.के. प्रेमचन्द्रन एवं श्री राजमोहन उन्नीथन को श्री के. सुधाकरन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।