

Re: Need to look into the problems of Indian nationals

abroad, particularly, of the Keralites working in

Gulf countries

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): There are no satisfactory arrangements for the repatriation of distressed Indians from the Gulf countries to India. Many of them who get involved in minor cases or labour disputes remain in jail for a long period even after their punishments or cases are over, on account of non-availability of return fares to India. It may be noted that the Indian labour is required to deposit an amount equivalent to one-way airfare while seeking

emigration clearance from the protector of the emigrants. This amount is said to be used for repatriating the labour to India in case of destitution.

There is no provision existing to meet the expenses by the Government of India for transporting the dead bodies of our citizens who die abroad. Even countries like Pakistan allow transporting of bodies of their nationals who die abroad to their home country at Government expense. It should be noted that the burial or cremation of dead bodies of certain communities is not permitted in many of the Gulf countries. Hence, it becomes all the more necessary that the dead bodies are transported to India for final rites.

Moreover, most of the Indian missions in Gulf countries do not have enough staff to handle the pressure of work, resulting in poor service despite the best efforts by the available staff. It is a fact that almost 60 per cent of the total Indian nationals in the Gulf are from Kerala and most of them do not know any language other than Malayalam. To extend proper service to this major section of the people, a substantial number of officers and staff deployed in the missions need to be Keralites.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I support his submission.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Sir, I too support his submission.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, I also support this. (ends)