

15.00 hrs.

Title: Need to open consulates of Gulf countries in Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): More than 16 lakhs of Keralites are working in Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar. Half of the expatriate Indian Community belongs to Kerala. The Government of Kerala has received several representations from expatriate Keralites urging the necessity to open consulates of Gulf countries in Kerala. Keralites now have to shuttle between Kerala and Delhi or Mumbai for attestation of documents, visa clearance etc. and quite often they are trapped and cheated by agents, in their efforts to gain access to embassies or consulates.

I urge upon the Government to initiate appropriate action for opening consulates of at least Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar in Kerala.