

Title: Demand to look into the problems being faced by expatriate Indians living in other countries, particularly in the Gulf countries.

*m07

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House the serious problems being faced by expatriate Indians living in other countries, particularly in the Gulf countries. There are about four million Indians living there. It is with their remittances that we have had the benefit of improving the foreign exchange reserves of the exchequer. They had saved the country from a financial crisis during 1989-92.

The Indians who are living in those countries are facing several problems to which, I am sorry to say, the Governments both at the Centre and the State are very much insensitive. They have not been given a fair treatment by any Government. It is because of that the Kerala State Muslim Youth League staged a demonstration before the Parliament on the 20th of this month and met the Prime Minister and other Ministers and submitted a representation.

Though people who come from Gulf countries to India travel a shorter distance than people who travel to any other country, they pay more than what others do. Every international airlines is giving cheaper tickets whereas Indian Airlines and Air India are exploiting our own Indians. You must know that out of these four million people, a majority of them belong to the working class. They are earning their livelihood only to support their families. At airports like Calicut, from where 35 flights operate everyday to the Gulf countries, these people have to pay Rs.500 as UAE fee. This is gross injustice. They have not been given a fair deal. They have not been issued ration cards. Their names have not been included in the voters' list. They have not been given any scheme. Is it not injustice on the part of the Government? It is a matter relating not only to these four million people but also to their families living in India.

I urge upon the Government of India to take into sympathetic consideration the representations made in this regard by the Kerala State Muslim Youth League and other organisations.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, since your notice is on the same issue, you may simply associate yourself.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I associate myself with the submission.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: (PALGHAT): Can we also associate with it, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, you are all allowed to associate.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (MUKUNDAPURAM): Sir, I associate myself with the submission.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I associate myself with the submission.