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Title: Regarding pathetic condition of Indian migrant workers in labour camps of the Middle East Countries.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to invite the attention of this august House regarding the sad plight of the Indian migrant workers in the Gulf countries of the Middle East.

More than five million people are working there out of which more than half are from my State, Kerala. Majority of the people working in the Gulf countries are doing very hard work and they are engaged in low paid jobs. They are living in labour camps which lack adequate sanitation facilities, drinking water, etc.

Now, the health problems there are increasing. They lack recreational facilities. Due to global recession, majority of the Indian migrant workers in the labour camps have not been paid their salary for the last many months. Those who have left their jobs are not paid their compensation. We are having the problem of getting back even their dead bodies which have to be transported back to their native places. It is becoming very difficult. Many countries in the world including China, Phillipines, Indonesia, etc. are now utilising the services of their Missions to constantly have a vigil checking up the labour camps and get in touch with the Labour Department of the various Gulf countries.

So, I would like to invite the attention of the Government of India through you, Sir, to utilize the good services of our Indian Embassies and Missions abroad to regularly check up the situation in the labour camps. We should also utilize the services of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to visit the various Gulf countries and enquire the details of the living conditions of the poor Indian migrant workers.

Even though we have come to the end of the day, I am saying this because as per the report of the Government of India itself, during the last year, the Indian migrant workers from these Gulf countries have made remittances for more than Rs. 30,000 crore. When it comes to the remittances of the Indian migrant workers, we are happy but when it comes to the remedy of the problems faced by them, we are not at all lending our ears and give a patient hearing to their problems.

So, my humble submission is that, we have eyes but we do not see and when we have ears, we do not hear. I request through you the Government of India to rectify these problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.K. Biju may be allowed to associate with Shri Sampath on this issue.