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Title: Reported increase in the cases of fraudulent marriages by the Overseas Indians in the country.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I request the Government to do the needful to prevent the fraudulent marriages by overseas Indians. It is learnt that thousands of Indian women have been cheated through fraudulent marriage with overseas Indians.

All fraudulent marriages occur by hiding the marital status of the already married overseas Indian men. Innocent women who get married to such men take several days or months after their marriage to realize that they are cheated. At present, there is no mechanism to get information about the actual marital status of overseas Indians. In foreign countries, overseas citizens should provide a certificate which proves the marital status to get married. In India there is no such system. Therefore, fraudulent marriages by overseas Indians are increasing day by day.

On this occasion I humbly request the Government to set up a mechanism to collect the actual material and job status of overseas Indian citizens through our Missions abroad. If such a mechanism is in operation, then cheating cases pertaining to the above category can be prevented.

I also request the Government to make it mandatory for the certificate issued by the concerned authority in our Missions abroad that an overseas Indian citizen is not married in the host country. Our Missions abroad have to be in constant contact with the concerned authorities in the host country in this regard.

I understand that the Government provides an amount of 1500 US dollars per case to assist the victimized women in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case. However, this amount is not sufficient to meet the expenses for legal procedures and other concerned matters. Therefore, I also request the Government to increase the amount in this regard.