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Title: Need to repeal the decision to double the import duty of gold.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I would request the Government to increase the limit of carrying gold without duty up to the value of Rs. 2 lakh.

Wearing gold ornaments is the part of Kerala culture and tradition. No State in India or no society in the world has such a tradition. Now, the NRIs who are bringing gold above worth Rs. 35,000/- are levied customs duty in Airports. Wearing a wedding ring, a thali chain is worth more than Rs. 35,000/-. NRIs have to remit the import duty even on these ornaments they wear. NRIs are being harassed by the customs authorities in this regard. I receive a lot of complaints in this regard.

Kerala State has the highest number of NRIs working abroad. When they to their homeland, they are being harassed by the customs people.

I would, therefore, request the Government to kindly increase the limit for carrying gold without duty up to the value of Rs. 2 lakh.

SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH (SURAT): Mr. Chairman, Sir I want to associate with this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Darshana Jardosh is allowed to be associated with this matter.