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Title: Need to facilitate easy registration of Non-Resident Indians as voters and also to set up polling stations in Indian missions abroad.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I invite the kind attention of the Government to the practical problems faced by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) with regard to their voting rights. According to the present rules of verification for getting enrolled in to the voters' list, an overseas elector or NRI should produce original passport before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the concerned area. Since the passports are withheld by the employers under job contract, NRIs cannot produce it for verification. Therefore, I request the Government to allow NRIs to register on the electoral roll by producing other valid documents they have and through our missions abroad. As per the rule, overseas elector or NRI has to be physically present in the polling station during the time of voting. Since most of the NRIs are subsistence wage earners, they cannot visit India for exercising votes. Therefore, I also request the Government to set up polling stations in our missions abroad and allow NRIs to cast their votes through them.