

an>

Title: Need to establish an Indian consulate in Dammam, Saudi-Arabia.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam, I would like to invite the attention of the Government of India to a very important matter. You know, more than five million Indians are working abroad and the vast majority of the Indians are in the Middle-Eastern nations. And, among the Middle-East nations, majority of Indians from various States are living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a vast majority of land is desert area. As you know, Madam, our Indian Embassy is situated in the middle of Saudi Arabia, that is, in Riyadh. Towards the western side of Riyadh is Jeddah. We do not have a permanent consulate in Dammam where more than five lakh Indians are living and most of them are living there with their family members also. From Riyadh to Dammam by road, the distance is around 500 kilometres. It is a journey of 500 kilometres. Now what our Indian Embassy in Riyadh is doing is that they are going to Dammam twice a week, that is, every Wednesday and Thursday. Virtually, our Indian Mission is absent in Dammam.

So, my humble request to the Government of India, through you, Madam, is that we have to open an Indian Consulate in Dammam in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which functions 24X7.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri M.B. Rajesh and

Shri P.K. Biju are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Dr. A. Sampath.