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Title: Need to provide special package for rehabilitation of NRIs returning to India.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Madam Speaker, I request the Government to kindly introduce a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the non-resident Indians who are coming back to the country after losing their overseas employment.

As we know, Gulf countries have been major destinations of overseas employment for our nationals since 1970s. But the scenario has been changing since the policies like Nitaqat and sociopolitical unrest in Gulf countries. Due to these reasons, employment opportunities are dwindling in Gulf countries. I represent a Constituency where NRIs have a significant presence, and I know their grievances personally. A person trying to get an overseas employment has to spend lakhs of rupees for that. In order to arrange this amount in most of the cases the NRIs depend on loans. Therefore, losing overseas employment means NRIs are thrown into lifelong debt traps.

Most of the NRIs are skilled workers and their expertise will be an advantage for India if it can be effectively utilized. If the Government could kindly introduce a comprehensive rehabilitation package including an interest-free loan scheme for NRIs, that will be equally beneficial for them and our country. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.