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Title: Need to constitute a Welfare Board to address the problems faced by NRIs.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Madam Speaker, my 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of constitution of a National NRI Commission and also to set up a National NRI Welfare Board.

A good percentage of Indians living outside India belongs to a lower or middle income group. Unfortunately, they are facing so many problems whether in India or outside India. But unfortunately, no Government is taking serious note or concern about the issues and problems, which are being faced by the NRIs in our country. They face several problems during their life in foreign countries and also when they return to India. Protection of their rights India and protection of their families and relatives in India need more attention.

Madam, the welfare of the NRIs who return to India and their rehabilitation become the task for the Government. But at present, there is no system functioning exclusively to look after the welfare of the NRIs. The issues and problems faced by the NRIs outside the country and inside the country are also pending without any solution due to the absence of an exclusive system for the same.

So, my submission is that an NRI Welfare Board and the NRI Commission are necessitated. At this juncture, I would like to make a submission that in the State of Kerala, we are getting Rs. 85,000 crore as foreign exchange earnings only because of these NRIs; and in Kerala, an NRI Commission has already been constituted.

Madam, as this is a matter involving country to country international importance, I would urge upon the Government of India to constitute a National NRI Commission and also a National NRI Welfare Board to look into the issues of the NRIs in India. Thank you.