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Title: Need to review the decision to merge the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with Ministry of External Affairs.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, thank you. My 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of having a separate Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs.

According to a survey conducted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, India has the largest diaspora population in the world. There are about 25 million Indian migrants as of now spread across 200 countries and India topped the chart with 70.4 billion dollars among the remittance receiving countries in the world.

Considering the significance of this fact, the UPA Government established a separate Ministry, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and it was effectively functioning. But recently the Government of India has decided to merge the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs without any in-depth study or discussion with the stakeholders. The decision of merger is against the interest of the NRI community. A separate Ministry is indeed essential to look after the affairs and ensure the welfare of NRIs. Therefore, it is urged that the decision of merger of two Ministries be reviewed and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs be retained as such. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

श्री चंद्र प्रकाश जोशी एवं

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल को श्री एन.के.प्रेमचंदन द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।