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Title: Regarding travel ban by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait due to increase COVID-19 cases.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, the Governments of GCC countries -- primarily Saudi Arabia and Kuwait -- have imposed a travel ban leading to tens of thousands of NRIs including Malayalis to remain stranded. A majority of them, from poor labourers to professionals, are stranded in the UAE due to this situation.

The sudden travel ban has put them in a crisis situation as many of them have spent upwards of Rs. 1 lakh towards all charges including boarding, air fare and tests for COVID-19. Many of them are on the verge of expiring their employment visa and face unemployment if they are unable to reach their destinations on time.

The Members of Parliament, especially, from Kerala are receiving a number of calls from our people in Dubai.

*m02

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, it is a very serious matter. We associate with this issue.

*m03

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): I am also associating.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would urge upon the Government to instruct the Indian Embassies to extend all possible help to the stranded expatriates. This matter needs urgent attention. We have met the hon. External Affairs Minister and MoS in the Ministry of External Affairs to intervene in this matter and take necessary steps. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, we fully associate with this issue.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN: I am also associating.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, please send slips to the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)