

Title : Need to open an additional consulate in Dammam, Saudia Arabia to address the problems of Indians employed in Arabian Gulf.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): There are about 30 lakh Indians employed in the countries in the Arabian Gulf. More than fifty per cent of tem are from Kerala. The overseas workers play a vital part in the economy of the State. But the problems faced by them are not addressed with due importance. Though expatriate population has grown manifold in the preceding years, the Indian Missions have not kept pace with the increasing demand. This is mainly because the Missions are understaffed. The Missions in the Gulf region have to be strengthened so as to equip them to handle expatriate problems effectively. Considering the heavy work load in the Indian Embassy at Riyadh and Consular office at Jeddah and on geographical consideration, an additional consulate in Dammam has to be opened.