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Title: Need to formulate rehabilitation package for the welfare of the returning overseas Indians.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House and also the Government to a very important issue of the Dubai crisis. The Dubai crisis is a matter of deep concern for the people of India and especially for the people of Kerala because a large number of people are working in Dubai. The UAE has two million Indian population and 40 per cent of the population of Dubai is made up of Indians. About 65 per cent of Indians working in Dubai are blue collar workers.

Indians living in the Gulf remitted \$ 27 billion in 2007 and they are making India a top receiver of migrant remittances. In addition to this, the UAE is also our largest export destination with shipments of about \$ 24 billion in 2008-09. So, the Dubai debt crisis has already impacted the markets the world over. In these the circumstances, it is a matter of deep concern for us whether there will be an impact on the jobs because of this crisis.

Further, the ongoing global recession has already led to the large-scale return of the overseas Indians. The Central Government has neither formulated any rehabilitation package nor earmarked any fund for the rehabilitation of the overseas Indian returnees.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that in view of the Dubai crisis, the Government should take immediate steps to formulate and implement a comprehensive rehabilitation package and also a welfare fund for the welfare of the overseas Indian returnees.