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Title: Need to take steps to make India a member of International Council of Nurses with a view to protect the interests of Indian nurses working in overseas hospitals-laid.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I request the Central Government to take urgent steps to make India a member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). India has the largest number of skilled nurses in the World. Our nurses are seeking better prospects in the overseas job markets, and our nurses abroad contribute a lot to India's GNP. However, our nurses working in the foreign countries face lot of problems such as lack of proper support systems to make the integration of immigrant nurses into the healthcare system in host countries, getting junior positions and low salaries irrespective of their qualifications, social exclusion and lack of career progression opportunities. Many nurses working aboard are being exploited by the recruiting agencies who promise them high salaries and later draw the major chunk of their salary themselves. Moreover, lack of international level curriculum, makes the immigration of nurses to foreign countries difficult. In order to overcome these problems and protect Indian nurses in overseas hospitals, I request the Government to take immediate steps to join the International Council of Nurses.