

>

Title: Issue relating to the problems being faced by Nuns.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise the issue of difficulties experienced by the nursing community in the country.

Of late we have been seeing the incidents of confrontation and atrocities, which have even reached larger scales, towards the nursing fraternity. This has promoted me to raise the issue before this august House.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, Kerala is the largest State which brings out nurses in the country. Nursing is considered as a respectable profession in the State. They can be seen even in the remotest hospitals of the country or almost in all the countries abroad. According to a study by the WHO, the country needs about 2.4 million nurses by 2012 to provide a nurse-patient ratio of one nurse per 500 patients.

However, now-a-days, as seen in the media reports, nurses are not being given due recognition and are often being deprived of their legal rights at their work-places and in the society.

Some of the issues related to nurses, which still remain to be tackled, are job insecurity, low pay and slow promotion in private sectors, lack of conducive work environment, harassment, increased risk of sexual harassment at the work-place and infrastructure facilities, including the bond system and compulsory deposit of their certificates in the private sector.

Sir, you would agree that all of us require the soothing comforts of a nurse, when hospitalized. However, we have not bothered to sooth their fears and discomforts.

Sir, to overcome these trying times faced by the nurses, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, that a national commission should be constituted to look into the matters of service conditions, pay-scale, security at work-place and the welfare of the nursing community. This commission should also undertake detailed visits to various States and different kinds of hospitals, both in the Government sector and the private sector. The emphasis should be made on those working in the private sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.T. Thomas and Shri K.P. Dhanapalan are also associating themselves with this issue raised by Shri Raghavan.