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Title: Need to establish a welfare fund for the jobless Non-Resident Indians returning to India due to global economic recession-Laid.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Due to the Global economic crisis, about 2 lakhs Non-resident Indians have either already returned or are in the process of returning to India. From Kerala alone, approximately 3 million people have gone abroad to earn a livelihood. Majority of them are in the Middle Eastern Countries. The total remittances they send to India as foreign exchange earnings amount to more than 7 times of the total budgeting support to the State. The people from other states also, working abroad face severe constraints and are under the threat of losing their jobs and earnings forever.

Even the present Union Budget has not earmarked anything for their rehabilitation. More than Rs. 20,000 crore have already been collected as Emigration fees and it still remains safely with the Government of India, but I don't know, whether, it is with the Ministry of Finance or External Affairs or with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs or Home.

As the plight of Non-resident Indians is becoming worse, I urge upon the Government of India to immediately establish a welfare fund exclusively for their rehabilitation and welfare.