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Title: Need to initiate measures to improve the condition of nurses.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, the country needs to debate why the Indian Nurses are going abroad when their services are required in the country. Recently, we know that the Government of India did a commendable job along with the Government of Kerala to bring back safely the Indian Nurses stranded in the war-torn Iraq.

Most of the Nursing professionals are migrants, especially from Kerala. So, what makes things worse is the low pay or the killing hours which they experience. They are given very low salaries. Even the most professional private sector hospitals give Rs.6000 while in the middle-sized hospitals the pay packet is just around Rs.3,000 to Rs.4,000.

In many hospitals, during duty hours, there are no rooms for them to rest. And even paying for overtime is an alien concept. The nurse-patient ratio in India is a poor 1:30.

The country needs to adopt a policy measure to be initiated by the Government to improve the status of the nursing community which has not really been implemented.

According to the 2010 World Health Organisation Report, job insecurity for contractual staff, low pay and lack of a conducive working environment are just some of the key unresolved issues related to nurse retention in India.

There is no longer any scope for India to lose any more of its nursing professionals to an exploitative work environment. And, for this, change is the only way out.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to constitute a Commission to study the problem and bring out a special proposal for the services and protection of the Nursing Community.