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Title:Need to give online voting rights to NRIs.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am raising a very important issue that is pertaining to the NRI voting right.

It is quite unfortunate that this House agreed to it; the Government of India agreed to it; the Election Commission agreed to it; and the Supreme Court Okayed it. In spite of all these things, it is not taking place. It is a very deplorable thing. NRI voting right decision was taken by this august House, which was a revolutionary step that we had taken. But, unfortunately, that decision has not been implemented.

We know that there are 10 million Indian citizens working abroad. An average of 18,000 voters is there in 543 Parliamentary Constituencies of India. It is the Government of India's stand and I feel that it is negative thing as they should have taken some more interest in it. India being the biggest democracy in the world, we should show a model to the entire world in this. It is quite unfortunate that the Government is not taking any interest in this issue.

Coming to the Kerala situation, Kerala is going to polls in the first half of 2016. The Kerala Government has requested the Government of India and the Election Commission to expedite action on this issue. As far as Kerala is concerned, we all know that there is high influence of NRI remittance in Kerala's very economy. We are having a special interest in it. As far as Kerala is concerned, its NRI remittance crossed Rs. One lakh crore in March 2015, which is 17 per cent hike than last year. The deposit in the public sector banks by the NRIs in Kerala is Rs. 64,700 crore and in private banks it is Rs. 14,900 crore, which may even go up to Rs. 2 Lakh crore.

As regards the NRI voting rights, even though, we have all agreed to it and this House was proud enough in giving consent to it. Why the Government of India is taking such a reluctant stand? I would appeal to the Government of India to implement this and show honesty in it. The Government of India should take immediate action on getting this thing implemented in our country, and the entire country will be proud enough to get this idea into action. Thank you, Sir.