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Title: Regarding exploitation by recruitment agencies recruiting workers to work in Kuwait.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Madam Chairperson, thank you.

I invite the kind attention of this august House to the plight of nurses who are being exploited by the manpower recruiting agencies. These agencies collect exorbitant service charges from the nurses for overseas employment. Recently, the Ministry of Health under the Government of Kuwait has conducted test in Kerala through the manpower recruiting agencies to select 502 qualified staff nurses. The agencies demand a service charge of Rs. 22 lakh from each nurse for recruitment to Kuwait's Ministry of Health.

Most of the nurses are not able to pay this amount and some nurses arrange the money either through bank loans or through selling their family property. In this pathetic condition, a nurse from the poor economic background is deprived of her or his right to employment.

It is learnt that the Kuwait Government is not taking any fee from the candidates or agencies for recruitment. Hence, the full amount of service charge is directly going to the pockets of recruiting agencies in India and their counterparts in Kuwait.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take immediate measures to stop this sheer exploitation. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Shri P.K. Biju is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Anto Antony.