

**Demand to give special rehabilitation package to Non-Resident Indians who
lost their livelihood in Gulf countries**

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, nearly four million Indians are working in the Gulf Region. Their remittance back to India is the main source of income for lakhs of families in our country. In States like Kerala, one-third of the State's GDP is emerging from the financial support of the NRIs working in the Gulf Region.

Now due to the international financial crisis, millions of workers lost their employment. Since most of the Indians working in this region are unskilled labourers, they are the first victims of the economic shortfall.

Recently, the State of Kerala has announced a package to support the economically backward Gulf returnees.

However, the intervention of the Central Government is needed to address this serious problem.

In these circumstances, I would urge upon the Central Government to announce a special financial package in order to provide employment and other rehabilitation facilities to those who have lost their means of livelihood in the Gulf and have returned back to our country. Thank you.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the Two Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha comes to a close. It commenced on 4th June, 2009 with the Rastrapatiji's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. The Address was discussed in the form of Motion of Thanks which was spread over three days and lasted for more than fifteen hours. I have directed the Secretary-General to make available statistical information regarding the session.

I thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the leaders of various parties and groups, and all the hon. Members for the immense cooperation extended that has enabled the smooth conduct of the House proceedings.

I also thank the Deputy Chairman, Members of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen and officers and staff of the Secretariat for their help and cooperation.

(The National Song, "*Vande Mataram*" was then played.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned sine die at forty-eight minutes
past four of the clock.