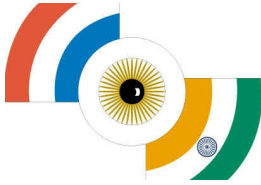


Wahid Saleh

Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau

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Honourable Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill,
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Maintaining the Right for (Social Security Benefit) for NRIs in The Netherlands

Berkel en Rodenrijs
30-05-2005

Honourable Prime Minister Manmohan Singhji,

We very much appreciate the interest and regard which you expressed towards the community of NRIs/PIOs in the Netherlands during your visit to The Hague in October 2004 for the EU-India summit.

We humbly request for your intervention in the following important issue that has arisen due to a change in the Dutch law regarding the Export Restrictions on Benefits Act (BEU), which as of 1st January 2006 is going to affect the NRIs in the Netherlands. This new law will deprive NRIs and Dutch persons with an Indian spouse living in the Netherlands of the social security benefits they have built over the years through mandatory payment of social security taxes, if they are to return back to India after retirement at the age of 65.

An agreement was supposed to be signed between the government of the Netherlands and that of India to facilitate the right to receive this social security benefit (AOW). Many other countries have likewise already signed such agreements. This matter has been under discussions between the affected NRIs and the Indian embassy in The Hague since the year 2002, which in turn have also been regularly writing to various authorities in India such as the ministry of social affairs & empowerment about this but without much concrete result.

We have brought this matter to the notice of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora (through its member secretary, Mr. J. C. Sharma), to Mr. Agnihotri the then Ambassador at Large for NRIs/PIOs, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, honourable Mr. Jagdish Tytler and periodically to the Indian Embassy in The Hague. The last written communication from the embassy in the Hague was on 14th April 2003, to the effect that the government of India is getting its act together regarding signing of the social security benefit agreement with the Dutch government. However no such agreement has yet been signed.

We would like to emphasize as well as impress upon you that in the absence of this agreement many NRIs who have worked in the Netherlands for long periods and paid their mandatory contributions to social security funds, including the old age pension, would lose these earned benefits, if they return back to India upon retirement. We would be extremely grateful if your office looks into this matter and updates us about further progress.

Yours sincerely



Wahid Saleh

(On behalf of concerned NRIs mentioned in the attached list)

CC: The Ambassador of India, The Hague