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**From:** [India News in Europe Programme](#)

**To:** [India News in Europe Programme](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2005 11:20 AM

**Subject:** INEP News - NRIs in the Netherlands risk losing social security benefits

### **NRIs in the Netherlands risk losing social security benefits**

Brussels, June 7, INEP -- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the Netherlands have sought the intervention of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to save their right for social security benefits.

A change in the Dutch law regarding the Export Restrictions on Benefits Act (BEU) to come into effect as of 1 January 2006 is going to affect the NRIs in the Netherlands, said a petition to Mr. Manmohan Singh signed by 118 NRIs.

"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," noted the petition a copy of which was received by INEP in Brussels.

An agreement was supposed to be signed between the governments of the Netherlands and India to facilitate the right to receive the social security benefit, but no such agreement has yet been signed.

Wahid Saleh, a long-time resident in the Netherlands and editor of the website "Indiawijzer.nl", who sent the letter to the PM on behalf of the NRIs, told INEP by phone that although the issue was brought to the notice of Indian authorities in 2002 and the last written communication from the Indian Embassy in the Hague was in April 2003 the matter remains unresolved.

"I don't understand why it is taking such a long time," he said.

An estimated 20,000 Indians including NRIs and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin) are living in the Netherlands.

In April 2002 Wahid was awarded the coveted Dutch honour "Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau" in recognition of his social activities. Wahid, who hails from Assam, is also the board member of the Brussels-based Europe India Chamber of Commerce and the EuroIndia Centre, La Rochelle, France.

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## **Dutch NRIS Risk Losing Social Security Benefits**

-Times of India June 8, 2005

**London:** Non Resident Indians in the Netherlands have sought the intervention of PM Manmohan Singh to save their right for social security benefits.

A change in the Dutch Law regarding the Export Restrictions on Benefits Act (BEU) to come into force from January 1 next will affect the NRIs in the Netherlands, a petition by 118 NRIs to the Prime Minister said.

“This new law will deprive NRIs in the Netherlands and Dutch persons with Indian spouse living in the Netherlands of 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,” the petition said.

An agreement was to have been signed between the governments of the Netherlands and India to facilitate the right to receive the social security benefits, but no such agreement has yet been signed. PTI

### **GOPIO NEWS BULLETIN JUNE 2005**

#### **NETHERLAND PIOs/NRIs APPEAL INDIAN PM ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

Several NRIs/PIOs have appealed to the Government of India to urgently intervene in the new Dutch legislation, which will deprive NRIs/PIOs and Dutch nationals with an Indian spouse, the social security benefits if they return to India after retirement.

Wahid Saleh, a distinguished PIO and GOPIO activist, on behalf of several NRIs/PIOs living in The Netherlands, has sent an appeal to this effect to the Indian Prime Minister pointing out the problems that this legislation will have to the NRI/PIO community in Holland. Mr. Saleh has pointed out that the social security benefits that they have built over the years through mandatory payment of social security taxes, they will lose if they are to return back to India after retirement at the age of 65. To facilitate the right to receive this social security benefit (AOW) an agreement has to be signed between the government of the Netherlands and that of India.

This matter has been under discussions between the affected NRIs and the Indian embassy in The Hague since the year 2002, who in turn have also been regularly writing to various authorities in India. Although the issue was brought to the notice of Indian authorities in 2002 and also to the notice of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora (through its member secretary in 2002, J. C. Sharma), to BhismaK. Agnihotri, the then Ambassador-at-Large for NRIs/PIOs and lately to Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Jagdish Tytler, the matter remains unresolved.

As this issue is pending for such a long time without receiving any update or information or any step by the government of India, the NRIs of the Netherlands have now approached the Indian PM for intervention. As similar situation exists in Belgium too, the GOPIO Belgium too has been asking the government to intervene without any result so far.