KOCHI

Pravasi Lok Adalat takes up petitions

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The Pravasi Lok Adalat has decided to pursue petitions by employees seeking compensation and benefits from their employers. The petitions were filed by Indians, who mostly worked in West Asian countries, or by their legal heirs seeking benefits from their respective foreign governments, employers or insurers.

The decision was taken at the adalat which was held here on Friday. It was organised jointly by Kerala Legal Services Authority (KELSA), Centre for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS), and Norka Roots.

The petitions brought before the adalat were examined and discussed in consultation with Indian lawyers practising abroad. KELSA would now send the petitions with its opinions to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

NALSA would then get in touch with the foreign affairs department to get the grievances redressed through the respective embassies.

The adalat was inaugurated by former High Court Judge C.N. Ramachandran Nair. Speaking at the function, George Joseph, former Ambassador to Qatar and Bahrain, said NRIs in distress should approach their respective embassies for help. More often than not, the help of private sponsors is sought, which land them in more trouble.

Thampan Thomas, trade union leader, said immigrant workers were facing many problems. He said 50 per cent of these workers were women. He stressed the need for enacting laws based on the norms laid down by the ILO to protect the interests of immigrant workers. A.J. Varghese of Norka Roots spoke.

P. Mohanadas, member secretary, KELSA, welcomed the gathering and Rafeek Ravuther of the Centre for Indian Migrant Studies, proposed a vote of thanks.

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