

## **Social Security Agreement between the government of India and the Dutch government**

At long last we have received the good news. During the Bharatiya Pravasi Divas Europe held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in The Hague. Mr. Jan Piet Hein Donner, Minister of Social Welfare & Employment, The Netherlands and Mr. Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs announced that the "Social Security Agreement" between India and the Netherlands is going to be signed in New Delhi in October 2009.

A few of you will remember that in October 2002, I informed the Indian Embassy, The Hague about the new "Dutch law on Export Restrictions on Benefits Act (BEU)". The new law would deprive the NRIs and Dutch persons with an Indian spouse living in the Netherlands of the social security benefits if they are to return back to India after retirement at the age of 65.

Through the Indian Embassy I requested the government of India to initiate negotiations with the Dutch government to sign an agreement to facilitate the right to receive this social security benefits in India.

Later on Mr. Jagdish Tytler (former Minister of Indian Overseas Affairs), Mr. Bhisham Agnihotri (former Ambassador at Large, in-charge of NRI/PIO Affairs), Mr. Krishna Kumar (former Secretary of MOIA) and others were also approached.

In May 2005 many of you have supported a petition which I sent to the Prime Minister of India seeking his intervention to save the right for social security benefits.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi, present Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs took up this issue. As a result the long awaited social security agreement between the two countries will be signed next month. The agreement to be signed will cover several branches of social insurance.

Warm regards,  
Wahid Saleh