

Seventeenth Loksabha

&gt;

Title: Regarding the higher charges for COVID-test at Airports.

**ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH (ATTINGAL):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the issues being faced by the Indian expatriates due to high airfare and higher charges for mandatory COVID tests at airports.

Many Gulf countries have relaxed travel restrictions, but unaffordable airfare is depriving them their chance to return to their destinations. Many of them are forced to book their air tickets at exorbitant prices during this crisis period. One-way ticket to many Gulf countries from Kerala, is in the range of Rs 25,000 to Rs 1 lakh. This has become a heavy burden on Non-Resident Indians who are already facing with their salary cut and job loss.

Similarly, there are a large number of complaints against higher charges for COVID tests at airports.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please put your demand.

**ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:** Sir, I am coming to my point.

The passengers travelling to UAE are required to carry along with them normal RT-PCR test done within 48 hours before departure, and have to undergo a Rapid PCR test at the airport within six hours of departure. The test at airports costs Rs. 40,000, which is extremely high and unaffordable to many.

Hence I would request the Government to consider these issues on priority and take measures to help the expatriates. Thank you.