

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding inclusion of KIAL as a Haj Embarkation point-laid.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): The largest number of muslim pilgrims in Kerala come from North Malabar region. Unfortunately, there is no Haj Embarkation point in the region. Earlier, 80 percent of the Haj pilgrims in Kerala depended on Calicut International Airport. But the Government has excluded the Calicut Airport from the list of embarkation points for Haj 2022 amid the DGCA's delay in restoring the operations of wide body aircraft. At present, Cochin International Airport is the only embarkation point for Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman and Nicobar. Pilgrims are to spend long hours travelling from North Kerala, Dakshin Kannada and Coorg to Cochin. On the other hand, Kannur International Airport has an integrated 95,000 sq m terminal building, which is the eighth largest in India, to facilitate services to pilgrims. The current runway length of 3,050 meters can operate wide body aircraft. The Government should include KIAL as a Haj Embarkation Point.