

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Regarding plight of the domestic air passengers at various airports in Kerala.**

**SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM):** Sir, through this submission, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation the plight of the domestic air passengers at various airports in Kerala. The air tickets of the domestic flights have become very costly in various cities of Kerala, and also in Delhi. The airline companies are exploiting the situation. The domestic air tickets have become a costly affair and the fare has gone up to Rs. 25,000 now. Also, tickets are not available for various routes. Due to special circumstances, even if we book the air tickets months before, the fare is three to four times the normal fare. Full fare is being charged on the children as well. The airports are jam-packed with passengers.

Train tickets are also not available. Hence, a lot of people including students are preferring to travel by air. The *Malayala Manorama*, the most circulated Malayalam newspaper, has been writing about the plight of the passengers for the last three days. I would request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and give directions to the airline companies not to exploit the passengers like this. It is the festive season. People from all over India are coming to Kerala for celebrating Christmas.

So, something has to be done. I heard that day before yesterday the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation himself went to Delhi airport to see the situation personally. Sir, this is a very difficult situation. I would request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and give directions to the airline companies to start more services and to reduce fares to a reasonable level. Thank you.