

Regarding situation due to non-availability of flight between Kerala and London

ADV. FRANCIS GEORGE (KOTTAYAM): Madam, I want to raise an important issue concerning the expatriate population of Kerala.(*Interruptions*) Air India has announced the stoppage OF Kochi-London direct flight effective from March 28th. This service is a vital connection, consistently operating at full capacity, and serving as a crucial link between families, students, and workers, particularly between Kerala and the United Kingdom.(*Interruptions*)

Air India Express has also announced the cancellation of important flights like, Bahrain-Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin-Delhi service for the summer season. These suspensions will further aggravate the challenges faced by Kerala's large expatriate population, particularly in the Gulf, and disrupt the travel plans of many returning home during this critical period.(*Interruptions*)

12.59 hrs

At this stage, Shri Harish Chandra Meena, Prof. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad

and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

Madam, the airlines raise the airfare very unreasonably during the festival and holiday seasons. I request the Government to give immediate direction to Air India and to Air India Express not to cancel these flights, and also to form an Airfare Regulatory Authority so that this fleecing by the airlines of ordinary travellers, especially Kerala-bound travellers, can be stopped.

Madam, I request the urgent intervention of the Civil Aviation Ministry to restore these flights and also to form an airfare regulatory authority to help the passengers all over the country. Thank you.

-

13.00 hrs