

**Need to expedite implementation of Sabarimala Greenfield Airport Project in Kottayam district, Kerala- Laid**

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for fast-tracking the implementation of the Sabarimala Greenfield Airport in Kottayam district, Kerala. This project near Erumeli helps to enhance connectivity to Sabarimala, one of the largest pilgrimage destinations in the country. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted "Site Clearance" in April 2023, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change provided the Terms of Reference (ToR) in July 2023. Once operational, the airport will significantly boost tourism, facilitate seamless travel for millions of Sabarimala pilgrims, and promote economic growth in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam districts and neighbouring regions. Additionally, these districts have a high number of NRIs, for whom improved air connectivity is a pressing need. The airport will also benefit parts of Tamil Nadu, ensuring better regional integration and development. I urge the concerned Ministries to expedite the process to ensure swift execution of this critical infrastructure project.