

Title: Need to abolish 'Users fee' being charged at Calicut Airport, Kerala.

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI): Sir, the Airports Authority of India has entered into an agreement with Malabar International Airport Development Society to avail a loan of Rs. 60 crore from HUDCO for the expansion of Calicut Airport Runway from 6000 ft. to 9000 ft. and remitted to the account of AAI for the same purpose. One of the conditions was that every out-going passenger from the Calicut Airport to Gulf countries should pay Rs. 500/- as 'Users Fee' till the completion of the runway. From 1995 till date, about Rs. 40 crore have been collected by MIADS and paid as interest for Rs. 60 crore availed. There was serious agitation against the collection of Users Fee even after completing the runway. The Government after a discussion with the representatives from the Malabar International Airport Development Society, Airport Development Committee and Kerala Muslim Cultural Association of Dubai who represent the Indian community in Gulf countries agreed to consider withdrawal of the Users Fee from 1st January, 2001. Instead of abolishing the Users Fee, it is still continuing.

Now, the Government have agreed to reduce only Rs. 125/- out of Rs. 500/- Users Fee. The people want total abolition of Users Fee as it is unjust and unnecessary. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to abolish forthwith the Users Fee, since the Government agreed for its withdrawal from 1st January, 2001.

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