

Title: Raised an issue regarding proposed Kannur International Airport, Kerala.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding the proposed Kannur International Airport.

It may be recalled that during the tenure of the United Front Government, the proposal for the construction of an international Airport at Moorkanparamb in Kannur District has been approved in principle and this has been announced on the floor of the House. The Airport Authority of India appointed an expert team to study the feasibility of the project and it is understood that a positive report has been submitted. The Government of Kerala has already gone far ahead and started the land acquisition process for this purpose. Hundreds of families in the area are evacuated. Topography of the land is such that 12,000 feet runway can be constructed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Abdullakutty, you are also doing the same thing of reading from the paper.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : I may also bring to your kind attention that this project will not entail any financial burden on the Government of India since it is proposed to be constructed under BOT scheme.

In this connection, I may also draw your attention to the recent reply given to the Question raised in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in respect of this project. The reply does not appear to be correct. The fact is that there is no International Airport within 300 kilometres of the proposed site. The two International Airports, namely, Bangalore and Trivandrum, are more than 300 kilometres away from the proposed site.

Construction of this Airport will bring in an overall development to this backward area in the State of Kerala. Moreover, this will also enhance tourism development in a big way. Under these circumstances, I request the Government through you to re-examine the matter and give clearance to this project.