

Title: Need to increase the number of A-130 flights by Air India and Indian Airlines from Calicut airport.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, joint operation of Indian Airlines and Air India from the Gulf countries to Calicut started a couple of years back since the runway of Calicut Airport was only 6,000 feet at that time and the wide bodied aircraft of Air India could not be operated from this airport because of this short runway and table-top layout. A-320 aircraft of Indian Airlines are being used for this joint operation and booking of tickets is done by Air India. The landing in various airports in the Gulf countries is done on the licence of Air India. Now that the runway of Calicut Airport has been extended, wide-bodied aircraft are already operating from Calicut. Therefore, Air India may be directed to operate their A-130 flights on a regular basis, increasing the number of flights per week to meet the demands of the passengers from the Gulf countries. The joint operation flights do not take care of the convenience and comforts of the passengers because of the lack of understanding between the Airlines concerned. Many a time, joint operation flights are cancelled due to various problems caused by this lack of understanding. Once wide-bodied aircraft are used on a regular basis, the cargo handling facilities also will increase manifold. I therefore request that the joint operations of Air India and Indian Airlines may be stopped forthwith and Air India and Indian Airlines may be directed to increase their number of flights from Calicut.