

Title : Need to increase Air India flight from Gulf countries to Kerala during Onam Festival.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, people of Kerala celebrate every year a big festival called 'Onam'. This festival comes in the month of September. The Keralite people celebrate this festival throughout the world. They not only reside in India but also in foreign countries. Annually, they visit their homes during this festival season. Now, it has become a practice for the air companies to enhance the air fare during this particular period. This is a human right violation. The workers are exploited without any justification. Whenever this festival Onam falls, they will immediately increase the air fare even to the extent of 100 per cent to 200 per cent. Now, even today, there is a hike in the air fare. It is most unjustifiable. It is a clear case of human violation and a clear case of exploitation[\[c23\]](#).

The private airlines have approached Air India which is a public undertaking. They are taking a negative attitude and they are not prepared to operate additional flights during this festival season. They are in collusion with these companies and this is paving the way for further exploitation of the people of Kerala living in Gulf countries. The Government should be responsible towards the poor people. So, I request the UPA Government to take immediate steps to

provide additional flights in the Gulf sector during the Onam festival season. This is a request of the people of Kerala. I hope that the Union Government would take up this matter very seriously. I, once again, request the Air India authorities to operate additional flights during this season.