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Title : Need to develop Mukundapuram as International tourist centre.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to highlight the tourism potential of Iringalakuda area in Kerala. The one and only temple in India, dedicated to Bharata, is the Kudal Manikyam Temple situated in Iringala Kuda, Kerala. Iringala Kuda also happens to be the birth place of Shri Unnai Warrior, the great poet and author of the famous Kathakali play 'Nala Charitam'. Nearby Iringala Kuda is Kodungallur, where the first known mosque in India, the Cheraman Juman masjid is situated.

Kodungallur is also the place where St. Thomas, the disciple of Christ first set his holy feet on the soil of India. And nearby is, Malayattur which has also been sanctified by the presence of St. Thomas. The birth place of Shri Shankara, Kaladi, is near Iringala Kuda. Mala was one of the centres of Jew culture and we have preserved their synagogue and the Jew cemetery. The biggest Church in India is in Ankamali. Kodanadd is the chief centre where elephants are trained in Kerala; and Attira Palli waterfall is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in our country. The International Airport at Cochin is also situated at Nedumpasheri, which too is in Mukunda Puram Constituency. It is well connected with the rest of the country, by National Highway No.47 and 17 that pass through the Mukunda Puram constituency.

Iringala Kuda, Chalakkudi and Ankamali for Kaladi are the important railway stations in the area. So, Mukunda Puram which spreads from mountains to the sea, is abundantly blessed with the varied scenic beauties of nature and also has the resources for water transportation.

\* English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Malyalam.

Therefore, Mukunda Puram has a rich heritage of being a sacred land for various religious faiths and is a place of historical importance. Further, the area is blessed with natural beauty and should be developed into an International tourist centre. I earnestly hope that the Central Govt. will take immediate steps towards this end. Kerala is a land of water sports and cultural pageants. Let us make this Gods own country; accessible to the tourists from all over the world.