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Title: Need to permit operation of international flights from Calicut airport to Gulf Countries by foreign Airlines.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): In spite of the fact that Calicut Airport has been recognized as an international airport, foreign airlines are not permitted to operate flights to outside destinations. People of Malabar region have to travel to Cochin to catch international flights which is time consuming and causes a lot of problems. Almost 61 percent of the air traffic generated at Cochin airport is from Malabar whose commercial and cultural capital is Calicut. People of this region have been demanding for several years that foreign airlines be allowed to operate from Calicut for the reason that the monopoly enjoyed by Indian Airlines/Air India has resulted in tardy and deteriorating service to them. Cancellation and delay of the flights are regular phenomenon. But their genuine demand is being overlooked without any valid reason. The lacunae mentioned earlier in this regard like lack of handling facilities and short runways have since been resolved.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Government to sympathetically examine the long pending demand of the people of Malabar region and allow foreign airlines to operate to destinations outside the country especially to gulf region from Calicut airport.