

>

Title: Need to subsidize the air-fare for pilgrims assembling in Vatican City on 12th October, 2008.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, in the history of Christianity or rather in the AD, namely, for the past 2000 years, no Indian has been declared as Saint by the Catholic Church. But for the first time, a woman from India is going to be declared as a Saint in Vatican on 12<sup>th</sup> October. It is a great honour. It is a great thing as far as Christianity is concerned and as far as Catholics are concerned.

Mother Teresa was declared as Blessed and after that only a person can be declared as a Saint. Sister Alphonza was also declared as Blessed some years back. When Mother Teresa was declared as a Blessed, the then Government had sent a Delegation from India just like all the Governments from various parts of the world had sent Delegations.

So, I would request that to honour this occasion and also to see that the Christians are also getting a real benefit out of that, I would submit that an official Delegation to represent the Government may be sent there. As many people would like to go there, some subsidized air tickets may also be considered. A stamp was released when this lady was declared as a Blessed. So, I would submit that a coin may be released when a lady from India is, for the first time, would be declared as a Saint.[\[R73\]](#)