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Title: Need to review the decision of DGCA for landing of bigger aircrafts at Kozhikode International Airport in Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHICODE): Thank you, Sir. I would like to raise an important public issue related to the Calicut Airport as well as passenger amenities.

The Kozhikode International Airport is the fourth largest revenue earning airport in the country where nearly 98 per cent of the flight operations are to the GCC countries. It caters to about 2.5 to 3 million passengers annually.

Another important factor is that it is also one of the largest airports catering to the Holy Haj pilgrimage.

A tabletop airport, expansion work including strengthening and lengthening of the runway is underway and nearing completion. More land is required for complete overhauling of the airport and there is total chaos in land acquisition.

A recent decision of the DGCA has deprived the landing of wide bodied aircraft in this airport. A directive from the DGCA that the length of the runway should be 13,000 feet and RESA should be 90 metres has put a spoke in the arrivals of wide bodied aircraft.

It was expected that with the completion of the second stage black topping of the runway, wide bodied aircraft could land here. The fourth stage of black topping is expected to be completed in November, 2016. Accordingly, various airlines had even issued tickets for their passengers for their summer schedules.

Now, this decision of the DGCA will also affect the Haj pilgrims apart from the public.

Therefore, it is urged upon the Government to revisit the decision of the DGCA and allow wide bodied aircraft to land at Kozhikode airport without compromising on security and take steps for early acquisition of the required land.

Alternatively, it is also suggested that a Special Public Vehicle may be formed jointly with AAI, State Government, and cooperative/private sector as stakeholders on the lines of the Cochin Airport so that the required developmental work can be completed at least under PPP mode which will allow zero expenditure to Government.