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Title: Regarding privatization of Trivandrum International Airport -laid.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Trivandrum International Airport is the first airport of Kerala and fifth international airport of India. It is the second busiest airport in Kerala. Besides civil operations; it caters to the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard and the Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology. Reportedly Global tenders have been floated for operation and maintenance of this high profit earning Airport. Whatever the objective, the fact remains that this move will greatly hike airport charges hitting the passengers. Many AAI employees will also be displaced. The State Government is not raising strong objections as they are interested only in ensuring that the economic benefit of privatization should reach them. Hence they have restricted their claim to setting up of Special purpose Vehicle or First Right of Refusal. I urge the Union Government to desist from this move and drop the disruptive idea to privatize Trivandrum International Airport.