

completely isolate this district. So, repair of this overraged bridge is very much needed. In addition to new bridge should be constructed on National Highway No.7 besides carrying out the repairs of existing old bridge.

I urge upon the Central Government to make arrangement for completion of this work at earliest.

(v) Need to set up a Frequency Modulation Station of all India Radio in malapuram district, in Kerala

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to start two FM stations under All India Radio in Kerala. Kerala is lagging behind in the field of electronic media and the step taken by the I&B Ministry to set up two FM Stations in Kerala is a laudable step. Eranad and Idukki high range areas in Kerala are not having electronic media facilities. It will be only in the fitness of things that one of the FM Radio Stations should be sanctioned in Malappuram district. It may also be mentioned that there are sufficient and suitable land and buildings available in Manjeri for setting up of such Radio Stations any time.

I urge upon the Central Government to set up one of the FM Stations of All India Radio in Malappuram District.

12.44 hrs

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL-
Contd.

[English]

MR.DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now

take up legislative business on further consideration of the Airports Authority of India Bill. One or two hon. Members are yet to speak on this Bill.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Aloor): Mr.Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to bring the functioning of the Airports under one Authority. This I think will bring about greater improvement in the functioning of our Airports.

We have opened our skies to private operators who are operating air services to different parts of our country. The idea behind this liberalisation is to encourage healthy competition so that the travelling public gets better services. While liberalisation is a good idea, it should not lead to any laxity in safety matters. In certain cases in the past, there were security lapses and fortunately no serious accident has taken place. But it can happen. So, the new Authority should strictly ensure safety at all times.

I had the privilege to congratulate the hon.Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad when he became the Civil Aviation Minister. He has done lot of things. The main thrust before him is the passengers amenities. He has taken several steps for improving the passengers amenities. And passengers very much feel that most of the flights are on time. The unwanted strikes are avoided and the grievances of the employees of the International Airports Authority of India are sorted out at an appropriate time. The better relations between the management and the employees are very much needed in the sensitive departments. Here, I can say that the hon. Civil Aviation Minister has taken into confidence all the employees. Once again, I appreciate him.