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Title: Regarding permission for wide-body aircraft landing and Haj embarkation point at Kozhikode airport.

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM): Sir, I am thankful to you for permitting me to bring to the notice of the Government a serious issue related to the Kozhikode airport in Kerala. A large number of passengers, majority of whom are expatriates from the State of Kerala depend upon this airport.

A decision regarding restriction on operation of wide-body aircraft from the Kozhikode airport was taken by the authorities. Earlier, it was operating very well. The operation of the wide-body aircraft has been withdrawn by citing one reason or the other. It has caused a lot of problems to the passengers, who totally depend on this airport.

Sir, there was a well-functioning Haj embarkation point at the airport as well. Its permission has also been withdrawn. The Kozhikode airport has been excluded from the list of embarkation points in the country. It has caused a lot of difficulties to the pilgrims, who belong to the northern part of Kerala as they totally depend on this airport.

Sir, the operation of the wide-body aircraft was stopped after an unfortunate accident, which took place more than one year ago. The official report prepared by the Committee, which was appointed by the Government after the accident, has clearly stated that the airport infrastructure has nothing to do with the accident. So, it seems that there is no justification for this decision. It is because of this restriction that people are facing a lot of difficulties. It has badly affected the

functioning of the Kozhikode airport, which was well functioning for the expatriates, who go abroad for work.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to intervene in this matter and take urgent steps to resume the operation of wide-body aircraft. I also request the Government to again sanction the Haj embarkation point at Kozhikode airport. Thank you.