

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding inclusion of Palakkad under the airport expansion plan.

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): Sir, Palakkad is a centrally placed district in Kerala and is adjoining the Tamil Nadu. Airports for the people of Palakkad are at Nedumbassery, Karipur and Coimbatore having a road distance of 113 kilometres, 101 kilometres, and 69 kilometres respectively.

Palakkad is the second largest industrial district in Kerala having all types of industries including Central and State Governments and public sector undertakings. The only IIT in the State of Kerala is at Palakkad. Palakkad is also a Divisional Headquarters of the Southern Railway. The work on the Industrial Corridor between Coimbatore and Kochi *via* Palakkad is in progress.

Palakkad is the gateway for reaching of all materials to the State of Kerala from many parts of the country. Moreover, thousands of people from this district and its neighbouring district are settled in many parts of the globe and are earning precious foreign exchange for the country. The proposed Coimbatore-Kochi Industrial Corridor is expecting huge foreign investment.

It is, therefore, necessary and essential to have an airport at Palakkad to make travel to/from Palakkad easier. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to include Palakkad under the airport expansion plan and develop an airport there through an eligible developer in consultation with the State Government.

Thank you.