

Need to regulate the exorbitant and frequent rise in airfare between Kozhikode and Gulf regions ? laid

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): I raise a serious issue that affects not only the people of my constituency but also the entire Malabar region as a whole. Our people depend upon this air connectivity for tourism, health, export and agricultural needs. As you are already aware, Calicut airport is one of the highly profitable airports of the country. When the 26 acres of land were available for nearly 35 years on the eastern side of airport, no efforts were made to acquire the same. Now the haste shown in curtailing the runway is highly questionable. In recent years certain people with hidden intentions are trying to cut the wings of this airport for certain private sector airports. These lobbyists are finding one reason after another to stop developmental works at Calicut airport. This airport as you already know is our gateway to Gulf and is used by large number of people. Instead of mutual blame gaming, both centre and state must take joint efforts to do everything possible to protect Calicut airport. I also request the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to find a solution to regulate the exorbitant and frequent rise in airfare between Kozhikode and Gulf regions which affects Pravasis very badly.