

Regarding hardships faced by passengers and decline in cargo exports at Calicut International Airport ? laid

DR. M. P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the hardships faced by passengers and the decline in cargo exports at Calicut International Airport due to the non-operation of wide-bodied Aircraft (code E). Despite the airport's recent upgrades, including recarpeting and modern runway lights, the ban on wide-bodied aircraft remained since the 2020 unfortunate plane crash, which was not attributed to any fault of the airport infrastructure facilities. This restriction has severely impacted on the airport's commercial viability, affecting exports of vegetables and fruits leading to increased ticket prices and reduced commercial activities. Calicut Airport is crucial for expatriates in the Middle East, playing a main role in earning foreign currency. I urge upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation to reconsider the ban, taking into account the airport's improved infrastructure. Additionally, there's a pressing need for increased domestic and international flight connectivity to more destinations. Some flights that were previously operational are yet to resume, and more services, especially to far-east and Middle Eastern countries, are essential. Given Calicut's rapid urban growth, I kindly request prompt attention to this matter for the betterment of the airport and the community it serves.