

Title: Requested the Ministry of Civil Aviation to reconsider the decision regarding increase in the air fare to the Gulf countries.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, it is only because of the fact that their party is creating a law and order problem in the State of West Bengal.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, recently, the Central Government has given approval to increase the air fare to the Gulf countries, except Saudi Arabia. This is going to affect the poor labourers and people who are working in different Gulf countries. The IATA has taken a decision to increase the air fare. It is a bilateral decision which has been agreed upon. I would draw the attention of the Government that during the Rajiv Gandhi Government, the IATA has requested four times for the increase of the air fare. But the then Minister and the Government had taken a decision not to increase the air fare to Gulf countries. It is unfortunate to note that it has been raised now in such a manner that the poor people are suffering. A lot of memoranda have been submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation as well as the Government to reduce the air fare to the Gulf countries. Our request is not heeded to and no decision has been taken. Today, our country is facing the problem of unemployment due to which our youngsters are going abroad, specially from the State of Kerala, to get employment in Gulf countries. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, through you, to reconsider this decision. They should decrease the air fare to the Gulf countries, specially Saudi Arabia, forthwith. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that I am calling the names of hon. Members as per the list.

...(*Interruptions*)