

Title: Cancellation of international flights from Trivandrum airport.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I would like to raise an issue regarding cancellation of international flights from Trivandrum. The Government of India declared the Trivandrum Airport as an international airport in 1990. Seventy international flights were being operated from Trivandrum airport upto November, 1998. But recently the Air India has cancelled seventeen flights to different destinations including some gulf countries from Trivandrum.

The tourist resort, Kovalam, which is situated in my constituency is one of the thirteen exotic locations listed in the National Geographic Traveller and one among the fifty places in the world recommended to be visited in a life time. It is a prime place for the tourist industry. One of the major constraints for the arrival of the tourists is the lack of direct flight to Trivandrum International Airport.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sivakumar, please do not read.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : It is disappointing for us that the the policy of the Central Government denies the State from taking advantage of these facilities. Therefore, I request you to liberalise and restructure Airline Policy and allow direct flights from major international tourist market to come to Trivandrum International Airport.

I request you to restore the cancelled Air India flights. I also request that the Trivandrum Airport be made operational round the clock.