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Title: Need to operate more international flights from the airports of Cochin, Calicut and Trivandrum in Kerala.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the fact that the Trivandrum airport is an international airport and the airports at Cochin and Calicut are of international standards. Unfortunately, the issue of optimum utilisation of these airports has not been taken up seriously. We have a dearth of international flights operating from these airports. We have all the requisite facilities. Cochin airport is an airport which was constructed with the contribution made by the NRIs. However, optimum utilisation of this airport has not been a matter of serious concern to the Ministry.

I would request the Government to operate more international flights from these airports so that people will be facilitated and the airport can be utilised to an optimum extent. Air India has started the New Jersey-Cochin direct international flight recently. The flight is going full and it is remunerative. If such flights can be operated from here to Frankfurt, London and other farther destinations in Europe, more passengers will avail the facilities at this airport. Even now our people come to Mumbai airport and other airports before getting back to Kerala. So, it is highly necessary that international flights not only from the Middle East but other European countries also are operated from these airports.

The Government should look into this. While the facilities and passengers are available at these airports, why cannot more international flights be operated in this sector?