

Title: Need to declare Cochin Airport in Kerala as an International Airport.

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (ERNAKULAM): The Cochin International Airport at Nedumpassery in Kerala is one of the unique experiences which has been constructed by a company constituted in a combination of Kerala State Government, private individuals and financial institutions. The Airport with international standard and facility is comparable to any international airport. Thousands and thousands of Keralites are working in the other sides of the Globe. The maximum numbers of the private shareholders of the company are NRIs. There are around 10,000 NRIs from 30 countries. They have a dream that if the airport is operational, they can travel directly to their homeland. At the same time there will be a boost to the tourism sector in Kerala. A lot of foreign air carriers are showing keen interest in operating from Cochin Airport. Already, some European countries have started operating regular tourist charters to this airport. Even though, the airport has an international facility and standard, the Central Government has not yet declared this airport as an international airport. If the Government takes the decision to announce this as an international airport, then only the international flight can operate from Cochin Airport. Otherwise, the company will face a heavy financial loss.

I request the Government to take necessary steps to announce this as an international airport.