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Title : Need to reduce the fare and increase flights from Kerala to Gulf Countries.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I draw the kind attention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding the unscrupulous methods adopted by Indian Airlines and Air India during summer holidays of Gulf countries.

Indian Airlines and Air India are charging about Rs. 3,000 more per ticket during summer vacations of Gulf countries. It is during these holidays workers of Gulf countries are able to meet their families. The increased price is more than affordable to the poor families travelling to and fro usually in the summer holidays. In a way, this policy of airlines is squeezing all the hard-earned money of the poor labourers.

Moreover, during this season, all the flights from Calicut Airport for Gulf countries are overbooked resulting in the offloading of passengers on many days. Many passengers have been stranded facing the risk of losing jobs as they would not be able to report for duty before the expiry of visa.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to look into the issue and take immediate action to curtail the burden of travellers by reducing the airfare and by providing more aircraft to and from Calicut to the Gulf sector. Thank you.