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Title: Need to augment operation of direct flights between Calicut (Kerala) and Gulf countries.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, even though the Calicut Airport is declared as an International Airport, for those coming from foreign countries, yet it has no landing facilities available there. The flights supposed to land at Calicut are diverted to Coimbatore. This causes undue hardship to thousands of Keralites working in the Gulf countries.

People working overseas from Kerala especially from Malabar Region have to take their flight first to Bombay and then taking transit flight to Coimbatore to reach Calicut as there is no direct flight.

Presently, the Indian Airlines operates some flights from Calicut to Gulf countries. No private airlines are permitted to operate. This is causing great inconvenience to the passengers from the Region.

To improve the situation, the Indian Airlines and Air India should have more flights from Calicut. If this is not possible, other private airlines should be permitted to operate from Calicut. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Santasri Chatterjee – not present.

Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya.