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Title: Need to resume the air flights and facilities to ensure Haj embarkation point at Calicut Airport.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Sir, as you are aware, Calicut Airport was one of the main embarkation points for thousands of Haj pilgrims from and around the Malabar area of Kerala. The decision of the Civil Aviation Ministry to terminate this facility has caused great hardship and misery to the pilgrims as they have to go all the way to Kochi in order to proceed on Haj. Such a step was presumably taken consequent to the partial closure of the Airport for re-carpeting and repair. The undue delay in completing the work has resulted in cancellation of flights bound for Arab countries. There is no justification in depriving earlier existing facilities to Haj pilgrims.

I appeal to the Government to resume the flights and facilities to ensure Haj embarkation point at Calicut Airport.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Shri N.K. Premachandran is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.