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Title: Regarding shifting the Haj embarkation point from Cochin International Airport to Kozhikode Airport.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): A letter was written by the Chairman, Kerala State Haj Committee to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Members of Parliament to intervene for shifting of Haj embarkation point from Cochin International Airport to Kozhikode Airport.

Sir, from the year 2002 onwards, all Haj flights were being operated from Kozhikode Airport. In the year 2015, all Haj flights being operated from Kozhikode Airport were shifted to Cochin International Airport.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suresh, which one you are raising? You have given notice about judicial officers.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: That was changed. The Secretary-General has told that matter should not be there.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, be brief and make your point.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: This is a very important matter.

The runway expansion has been completed in Kozhikode Airport, but no step has been taken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to shift the Haj flights from Cochin International Airport to Kozhikode Airport.

Sir, 85 per cent of the Haj pilgrims are going from Kozhikode Airport.

A majority of the Hajis, going for the holy Haj, are from Calicut and from Mallapuram District.

About 100 meters away from Kozhikode airport, a Haj House was constructed for the convenience of Hajis, for which crores and crores of rupees were spent.

In Calicut Airport, thousands of Hajis stay there before going to Mecca but in Cochin International Airport, there is such facility. Now, the Haj pilgrim process has already started and registration or booking of the Hajis is going on. Thousands of Hajis are travelling from Calicut to Cochin for this purpose. The demand of Kerala Haj Committee is quite genuine for shifting the Haj flights to Kozhikode International Airport and utilise the Haj House which offers facilities for the comfortable journey to Hajis.

In this extraordinary situation, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation to take urgent steps to shift the Haj embarkation point from Cochin International Airport to Kozhikode Airport. Thank you, Sir.