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Title: Need to take much more inclusive steps for the development of various airports in the country.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I raising a very important and urgent matter during Zero Hour today.

The Draft Civil Aviation Policy has proposed to develop only six international airports as travel multi-modal hubs. The Draft has limited its scope by selecting six metropolitan airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangaluru and Hyderabad that would be developed as major international hubs and would, in future, be the main access point for international travel to and from India. This is what the Draft Policy states. This proposal is, indeed, discriminatory and raises serious concern to States like Kerala, which has higher air traffic compared to any of the proposed airports.

In 2013-14, Cochin International Airport Limited in Kerala carried 3.27 million passengers, or seven per cent of country's total traffic, which is higher than Bangaluru and Hyderabad put together. In fact, if passengers from Kerala's three international airports – Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram – are clubbed, the State's traffic at 7.38 million is substantially higher than even Chennai. If implemented, the Policy will work against the interest of people of various regions, and will badly affect the development of various airports.

Hence, Madam, I would request that the concerned authority should not implement such a discriminatory proposal and should take much more inclusive steps for the development of various airports in the country

HON. SPEAKER: The names of

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

Shrimati P.K. Shrimathi Teacher,

Shri P.K. Biju,

Shri Innocent,

Adv. Joice George and

Shri N.K. Premchandran will be associated on this issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.