

an>

Title: Need to provide cheap tickets on Indian National Carriers for the labourers working in gulf countries to travel to India and back..

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, with your kind permission I would like to place a very serious issue before this House.

Lakhs of Indians are working in foreign countries, particularly in the Gulf countries, and a good number of them are from the State of Kerala. The Government of India is getting a good portion of the foreign exchange as they are sending money to India but it is sorry to say that we are not able to give anything in return even in the last Budget also.

Madam, it is shocking to say that Indian Airlines and Air India have raised the flight charges recently. There was no justification for that. We know that in international market the price of petroleum products has declined, including the fuel used in these flights. At the same time, it is said by the Indian Airlines and Air India that 40 per cent of their expenditure is due to fuel price rise. If you see, it has come down. They are really looting these passengers. They usually come to India during puja or Christmas. This is not the season but the national carrier treats it as the seasonal issue and they are looting the poor passengers.

So, I would urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter. We are not able to give anything to them but at least we should give them transport facility at the cheaper rate or at the minimum rate.

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Joice George and Shri Sankar Prasad Datta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.