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Title: Need to take Cochin Airport as an International hub.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue during 'Zero Hour'. The City of Cochin is known as the Queen of Arabian Sea. If the City of Cochin is the Queen of Arabian City, the Cochin International Airport is the gem on the necklace of that Queen.

The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has got the wonderful and the most modern infrastructure facilities. This is the best and the most cost effective model promoted by NRIs. This Airport model has been widely acclaimed internationally.

This Cochin International Airport is connected to 202 countries. It holds fourth position in terms of international passenger volume and holds seventh position in terms of total passenger volume. It has achieved spectacular growth of 13 per cent in recent years. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation has already recommended that the Cochin International Airport Limited should be given the 'Hub' status. My request to the Government is that to please accept the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and give this 'Hub' status to Cochin International Airport.

With these words, I conclude.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Dr. A. Sampath, Adv. Joice George and Shri C.N. Jayadevan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.B. Rajesh.