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Title: Regarding lack of amenities at International Terminal of Thiruvananthapuram Airport.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I may be permitted to speak in Malayalam. Malayalam is the daughter of Sanskrit and younger sister of Tamil.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak in Malayalam.

*DR. A. SAMPATH : Thank you, Sir.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I may be permitted to speak in Malayalam. Sir, Malayalam is the daughter of Sanskrit and the younger sister of Tamil.

Sir, after independence, the first airport, which was declared as an international airport was, Thiruvananthapuram, airport.

This happened in 1989, when Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was the Prime Minister and the LDF Government was in power in Kerala under the Chief Minister-ship of E.K.Nayanar. Thiruvananthapuram was then declared as the 5th International airport.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you because there are reasons to suspect, that a conspiracy is being hatched by the bureaucracy, to destroy and eventually shut down Thiruvananthapuram airport.

Sir, several Members of Parliament including myself, and Members from Tamil Nadu take our New Delhi flight Air-India flight No.466 from Thiruvananthapuram airport.

Sir, earlier this flight used to operate from the old terminal located near the Shankumukham beach side. Now it operate from the new international terminal. Sir, several Members of Parliament had taken this Air-India flight No.466 this very morning. I can tell you what happened this morning. Between 3 am and 6 am there were flights belonging to Nine air companies that operated from the new international terminal. That is, three flights belonging to Air-India, Fly Dubai flight, Emirates flight, Qatar flight, Etihad flight and Kuwait flight. Some days there are upto 12 flights that operate from this terminal.

Sir, now I will present some instances of negligence on the part of authorities that is causing confusion and inconvenience.

There is only one entry point for both domestic and foreign flights passengers. There is no facility to get a cup of tea or coffee in the check-in-area. There is insufficient facility for passenger to even sit.

The CRPF personnel who perform frisking and checking duties. Don't know Malayalam or Tamil. Even domestic passengers are asked in Hindi to produce their passport.

How can a Member of Parliament produce his passport before a CRPF Jawan at two check points? These CRPF personnels do not even know how to identify MPs Identity cards.

So, Thiruvananthapuram airport is the best example of how mal administration can ruin an international airport. Sir even mothers who come carrying their infants or even pregnant women do not have a place to sit. Most of the passengers in Thiruvananthapuram airport are international passengers.

This is the copy of the ticket from Thiruvananthapuram to Sharjah. This ticket was issued this morning and the flight charge shown is rupees 8930.71. Please see the facts Deputy Speaker Sir.

User development fee is rupees 575/-, development charge is rupees 300/-, airport tax is rupees 233/-, which means a total of rupees 1108/- is being snatched way from a passenger and then even toilet facilities, facility to sit and have a cup of tea or coffee are denied to him. Even domestic passengers are forced to stand in the emigration queue. Therefore, I request that Central Government to immediately intervene and save the Thiruvananthapuram international airport.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.