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Title: Regarding exorbitant airfares from Gulf Countries to Kerala.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Hon. Speaker Madam, the Indian diaspora in Gulf, especially from Kerala, is being fleeced by air carriers during the ongoing peak season by hiking fares exorbitantly. Even the national flight carrier Air India has joined the private sector in holding the Gulf Malayalis to ransom. There is no provocation for the steep hike in air fare when the crude oil price is still ruling low. Further, currently the Gulf countries are passing through a peaceful and politically quiet period with no threat of mass evacuation of Indian emigrants from conflict areas requiring massive air evacuation arrangements by India.

Most of the air travellers from Gulf to Kerala are surviving on very low wages and harsh condition. It would be an uncharitable gesture on the part of the Indian air carriers to make them part with a major share of their earnings just to travel home every year and to spend a few days with their families. It rests upon the Air India, the national flight carrier to hold on to the nominal fare schedule even during the ongoing peak season and also during June-July annual school holidays. This will have a symbolic effect on the private carriers to fall in line. I urge the Centre to pay heed to legitimate grievance of the Gulf travelers. Thank you.