

(v) Need to operate more flights from Calicut to Jeddah, Kuwait, Doha and Bahrain

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): There are now 19 weekly flights from Calicut Airport to four destinations in the Gulf countries namely Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Muscat. As per the present schedule, our aircrafts are very much underutilised, since aircraft which leaves Bombay, Madras or Bangalore comes to Calicut and go to the Gulf destinations and wait for many hours before returning to the base namely, Bombay via Calicut. It will be only in the best interest of Indians living in the Gulf countries as well as our Airlines, if this period of waiting is utilised to fly to the destinations like Kuwait, Doha, Bahrain and Jeddah. Therefore, I urge upon the Civil Aviation Ministry to consider the request of Indians living in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain to have Indian Airlines/Air India flights from Calicut Airport to Jeddah, Kuwait, Doha and Bahrain respectively.

12.45 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND FOR
GRANT (RAILWAYS) 1994-95;
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(RAILWAYS) 1991-92 - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways). The total time allotted was three hours and we have already

taken nine hours and 16 minutes. We have got 10 more names according to the list.

Now, Shri P.C. Thomas.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

The Members who have supported this Supplementary Demands have made several points, which include some aspects regarding passenger amenities. Now one point which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that this is a field, where the passengers would like to get the maximum attention. But, unfortunately, last year though a sum of Rs. 60 crore was earmarked, which, of course, was rather meagre as far as the nation is concerned, the whole sum of Rs. 60 crore was not utilised. I do not know as to why the whole funds, which have been earmarked for passenger amenities, have not been utilised when for various other aspects we were not able to find enough resources. This is something which has to be taken note of very seriously. I would plead with the Government and I would bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that this sum, Rs. 60 crore, is not enough for passenger amenities, in the year to come we have to increase this amount, and also we have to see that the whole amount is properly utilised for this purpose.

Now, the second aspect I would like to touch is with regard to some developmental works which have been declared and which have been actually on the verge of starting in Kerala.

Now I am happy that hon. Minister has declared in Parliament that a