

assistance to U.P. Government to curb terrorist activities in the State.

(vi) *Need to start additional Lights between Calicut and Bombay and Calicut and Trivandrum.*

[English]

SHRI F. AHAMED (MANJERI) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the present condition of Calicut Airport which falls within my constituency. It is after a very long standing demand of the people of Malabar region of Kerala State that Karipur Airport in Calicut has been sanctioned three years ago. Calicut Airport is catering to the needs of people of Malabar region especially those who are working in Gulf countries. But contrary to expectations now there is only one Indian Airlines flight between Calicut and Bombay. In the event of cancellation of this flight, passengers who are to reach Bombay who have to catch the flights to Gulf countries from Sahar Airport are greatly inconvenienced. The demand of the people in this respect is to have one more additional flight on Bombay-Calicut route.

There is no flight between Calicut and Trivandrum which is inconveniencing Gulf passengers who are to reach via Trivandrum to their home in Malabar area on the same day. Therefore, it is high time that Indian Airlines introduces immediate flight touching Calicut-Trivandrum and also Bangalore-Madras in view of the commercial importance of Malabar region and importance of Calicut Airport. Necessary technical facilities in the Calicut Airport such as Instrument Landing System etc. and further lengthening of the runway enabling to receive Airbus A-300 should also be started early (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What you have given in writing only goes on record.

(vii) *Need to operate Boeing Aircraft to Vijayawada and make the operation of Vayudoot more effective.*

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE : (VIJAYAWADA) : Sir, traffic to and from Vijayawada Airport has been increasing at a very high rate every year. The Ministry of Civil Aviation have been represented several times regarding the need to operate Boeing aircraft to Vijayawada Airport to meet the passenger traffic. The Ministry have stated that after the runway is extended and strengthened, Boeing Aircraft will be operated to Vijayawada. Necessary land has been acquired but the work of extending and strengthening runway, providing night landing facilities have not yet started. This should be immediately taken up. Moreover, the Vayudoot operation to Vijayawada Airport is most unsatisfactory and irregular as a result of which travelling public are losing confidence in these operations. Steps should be taken to operate the service most effectively.

(viii) *Need to send a Central team to Madhya Pradesh to assess the gravity of drought conditions.*

[Translation]

KM. VIJLA VERMA (SEONI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the arrival of monsoon is still uncertain in Madhya Pradesh. Even in this second week of July there is no indication of arrival of monsoon. The farmers had sown seeds after the first rains on 10th and 11th June but as there were no rains subsequently the seeds did not germinate. Those who did not sow their crops are also in a fix. Even if the monsoon arrives now there will be a poor crop.

Under such circumstances there is a possibility of drought in Madhya Pradesh. If effective steps are not taken now the situation is likely to take a turn for the worst. It is, therefore, requested that a central team is sent there to assess the situation.