

Introduction of direct flights from Mangalore to Saudi Arabia and setting up of cargo facility

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Mangalore is fast emerging as an industrial and commercial hub of Karnataka with the upcoming Petro-Chemical Complex by ONGC along with Special Economic Zone. Mangalore and its surrounding places are replete with historical and important pilgrimage and tourist centres. These areas have a large concentration of people working overseas, particularly in the Gulf countries.

With the declaration of Mangalore Airport as an international airport, Air India Express is operating some direct flights between Mangalore and Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Bahrain and Doha.

Mangalore airport handled 2.77 lakh passengers and 3,600 aircrafts and earned a profit of Rs.83 lakhs during 2006-07. The international passenger traffic grew by 60 per cent. The airport is expected to handle over 6.01 lakh passengers and 7,300 aircraft and its profits soar to over Rs.7 crores during 2007-08.

A new Integrated Terminal building, runways, etc., are being added to the Mangalore airport complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 147 crores. Incidentally, a number of areas in Dakshin Kannada District and its adjoining areas have a large concentration of Muslim population, who undertake the yearly holy Haj pilgrimage by travelling to Saudi Arabia. It is a long-pending demand of our Muslim brethren for a direct flight from Mangalore to Saudi Arabia.

Having regard to the above, the Centre may augment the international flights and introduce direct flights to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from Mangalore and establish a cargo facility at the Mangalore airport at the earliest for overall economic development of the area.

Need to take remedial measures to save Circus Industry from Extinction

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the circus industry which has a long historic background has almost lost the patronage of the people after the flooding in of the TV channels. The industry which provides decent employment to large numbers of people, especially the youth and women of distinct talent is now suffering the worst.

Entertaining the people invariably of all ages, it has had an outstanding place in the hearts of everyone, cutting across all barriers. The workers in this industry have no life security and they lack all basic benefits and remedies which are available to workers in various other sectors.

Sir, I urge the Government to take into consideration with sincere concern the condition of the unprivileged, extraordinary skilled workers in this industry recognising them as unorganised workers and extend them all possible assistance before this ancient industry vanishes, leaving behind thousands of people deserted due to lack of support and care.

Demand to frame Guidelines/Legislation for regulating telecast of crime related programmes by the Tele-Media in the Country

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the increase in crime rates of the country and the effect of media in exposing these incidents increases the incidents. We can