

(iii) Because of the extreme heat, July-August is the summer vacation period for the schools in the Gulf countries. So, the working parents of children studying in the Gulf Region choose to visit their native place during this time.

(iv) The passenger traffic in this sector is the maximum during August, hence the decision of Air India Express to cancel the said three flights will be a huge setback for the passengers in this sector.

(v) Taking advantage of the situation, the private airlines operating in this sector have decided to hike the airfare to Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode drastically. This is another big blow to the NRKs, who are compelled to shell out more money to visit their native place, as they are left with no choice but to travel in private airlines at a higher cost.

I, therefore, demand that the Government should take immediate steps to:-

(i) maintain the *status quo* of Air India Express flights between Thiruvananthapuram and the Gulf Region (especially to Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai); and direct the private airlines not to hike airfares in the Kerala-Gulf sector during the peak season of August-September.

Demand to take steps for creation of National Mission for Indian Languages

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I would request the Government to initiate steps to form a National Mission for Indian Languages.

India's rich linguistic diversity is a matter of pride, as it is one of the most invaluable intangible assets reflecting the genius of our people, evolved through millenniums. Twenty-two of these languages are recognized as official languages. Each recognized regional language of India represents a unique culture having Pan-India ethos as its core development and progress of State speaking each regional language involve nurturing and timely advancement of particular regional language as it is integral to the cultural identity of the people.

As an aftermath of changes, the most significant being that after globalization, thousands mother tongues are in serious existential crisis, a number of them face extinction, says the United Nations. The UN suggests various measures to preempt such a situation, which has unfathomable negative impacts. In a country like India neglect of mother tongue will create cultural as well as identity crisis that would be detrimental to our developmental goals and in a wider perspective national interests. Taking the gravity of the situation in to account, it becomes highly imperative to form a National Mission for Indian Languages. Thank you.

**Demand to prepare strategy for making investments Abroad by fully utilizing our Human Expertise
and Technologies**

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, India has already distinguished itself at the global level as a fast-growing and extremely well-managed economy. Being a leading Member of G-20, we are ardent votary of "Growth for all Nations". There are opportunities for our entrepreneurs in the nearby 10 member ASEAN and other Asian regions.

As a commercial and financial regional hub, an IT powerhouse, a tourist destination, as a shipping and logistics staging point with exceptional connectivity, there can be no better gateway for us to the prospering ASEAN markets. It is high time we launch our foreign investment policy, not only for Asian all-round development, but also for strengthening multilateral trade, investment, infrastructure, and techno-economic ties.

With a natural partnership amongst ASEAN nations, with shared cultural bonds and commitment to democracy and social equity, food security and regional safety, the opportunities are galore for deepening their techno-socio-economic base through our proven record of insulating our economy from recent global inflationary trends and universal meltdown. Setting up infrastructure being ASEAN dire necessity, an amalgamation of political will and growing enterprising spirit of public and private sectors will, certainly, usher in an era of our investments, and financial management skills for raising up their socio-economic milieu. Apart from making foreign investment, such a course will