

**Irregularities in construction of a Flood Protection
Wall in Yanam, Puducherry**

SHRI P. KANNAN (Puducherry): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House, and also the concerned Minister, a very painful thing, as far as I am concerned, and, I believe, also for the whole House. Sir, in Puducherry, there is a pocket named 'Yanam'. There, a case is being investigated by the CBI wherein a lower-level officer forged the signature of the Regional Administrative Officer.

At the outset, it may appear to be a small case but if you go to the depth of this case, you will find that the proposal somehow went to Delhi without going through the proper channel, that is, through the Chief Minister or the Lieutenant Governor. Sir, Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator in a Union Territory. Without going through proper channel, this proposal directly reached Delhi and received some money, I understand, around Rs. 10 crores.

I do not know as to how could a file reach Delhi without proper channel, and, that too, on a forged letter with forged signature. More so, the Centre released around Rs. 10 crores for this project. I do not know where this money is, in whose hands it is, and, what has happened in this mysterious case, which, I think, has never happened in the history of India.

My point is that people's money should not go into the hands of the miscreants, or people's money should not go to those who manipulate anything anyway. Sir, we have an honest Prime Minister, we have an honest UPA Chairperson. If such a thing can happen in a small territory like Puducherry, what will happen in big States? It is a mysterious thing. It should be completely probed as to how it went to Delhi, and, how money was sanctioned without the signature of the Administrator. No Chief Minister, no Lieutenant Governor, no Chief Secretary sent the file but the file reached Delhi and they received huge amount of money! It is not a simple case. I do not want to give any adjective to it. I do not want to call it a 'scam' or anything but it is a very mysterious and unfortunate thing. Thank you.

**Problems being faced by NRIs in Gulf region due to
cancellation of flights of Air India**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice a serious situation faced by the NRIs in Gulf countries due to continuous cancellation of Air India flights.

After the withdrawal of pilots' strike, Air India has not resumed the regular schedule from Gulf countries. The scheduled flights to various Gulf destinations are being cancelled.

Last Friday, I met a family in Delhi-Kotchi Air India flight. Actually, they had booked a Muscat-Daman-Calicut flight. At the last moment, the flight was cancelled, and, they

[Shri P. Rajeeve]

were compelled to first go to Delhi, then to Kutchi, and, from Kutchi to Calicut by road. This is the situation being faced by NRIs in Gulf countries. The continuous cancellation of flights has seriously affected many passengers as a result of which, they are not able to return to their duties as per schedule, and, consequently, it results in cancellation of their visa etc., which poses a threat to their jobs also. Majority of the expatriate families travel during the summer vacations. Some of the workmen choose to travel to their home State once in three years. The increase in air fares comes to about 500 to 600 percentage. As a result of this, the poor working class of the UAE alone ended up paying an additional fare of Rs. 1,215 crores. Around 98,000 direct paid seats are here and minimum one thousand Dirhams have been increased for each ticket. This means, the additional burden is for a sum of Rs. 1,215 crores. The total extra amount paid by the Indian expatriates in the Gulf sector is more than four thousand crore rupees. Sir, average fare from Muscat to New York per kilometer is 4.50 rupees, but from Muscat to Kochi, it is 15.50 rupees. This speaks volume of airline robbery, Sir. Air India and the Civil Aviation Ministry act as an agent for private airlines. The Civil Aviation Ministry acts as an official liquidator of Air India. We met the Prime Minister; we met the Civil Aviation Minister and submitted a memorandum. They had given an assurance to take steps to normalize the situation, but nothing has happened so far, Sir. This is a very serious issue. Approximately 34 per cent of the STP of our State comes from NRIs. We are facing a very serious situation, Sir. I urge the Minister to intervene in this situation and normalize the schedule of the Air India and schedule more special flights from Gulf countries to Kerala.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, the Government is...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Achuthan, you have said that you will associate yourself. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, we want an assurance from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, we want an assurance...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, Mr. Achuthan, you can only say that you associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, the Minister is there. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no, there is no Civil Aviation Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, Government should say something. *...(Interruptions)...* We met the Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)...* We gave a representation. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please. *...(Interruptions)...* Hon. Minister is saying something. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I will convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the Hon. Minister for Civil Aviation for taking appropriate action. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, this matter is very serious. So, the hon. Minister will convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the hon. Civil Aviation Minister who, I hope, will take action. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, we met the Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okay, okay, that is all. *...(Interruptions)...* That assurance is enough. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the issue is very serious. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, Mr. Rajeeve, I also know that the issue is very crucial and important, but the hon. Minister has responded. What else do you want?

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Sir, from Kerala to Gulf countries...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, the issue is very serious and...*(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Yes, I also know that it is a serious matter, but the Government has responded. *...(Interruptions)...* That is enough. The Government has responded. Now, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. *...(Interruptions)...* The Government has responded. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: People are not able to come here. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): All what he can say, he has said that. *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Achuthan, please. *...(Interruptions)...* Yes, Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen.

**Mass scale dismissal of workers in Maruti Suzuki
Plant in Manesar**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government and also of this august House, through you, to the mass-scale summary dismissal of the workers in the Maruti Suzuki plant at Manesar in the National Capital