

**Demand to expedite the renovation work on the runway of
Calicut Airport in Kerala**

SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Kerala): Sir, commissioned in 1988 the Calicut Airport caters to the Northern Kerala which covers six districts of Malabar. Majority of the Keralites working in Gulf countries who bring precious foreign exchange to the exchequer, are from these districts. With 98 percent of the flight operations to GCC countries, this was the fourth largest revenue earning Airport in the country till it was partially closed down in May, 2015, for the Runway renovation.

Partial closure resulted in shifting majority of the flights to other airports, which, mainly, affected wide bodied aircrafts. So, airlines like Emirates, Saudi Airlines, and Gulf Air that carries more than 400/425 passengers in a flight had to leave Calicut Airport. At present, there is no flight to Saudi Arabia whereas there were daily flights earlier to three cities of Saudi viz. Riad, Jeddah and Dammam, where thousands of people from Malabar Districts are working.

Runway work is being irresponsibly dragged and still waiting for completion. The work on the Calicut airport is taking an abnormally longer period. It still could not complete the renovation of less than a 10,000 ft. runway, casting doubts on the efficiency of the Airport Authority.

Partial closure of Calicut Airport is exploited by the limited airlines, which are operating with small aircrafts to become monopoly in the sector and charge indiscriminately. Gulf passengers are exorbitantly charged during festival seasons.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to take this matter seriously to complete the runway immediately and open the Calicut Airport fully.

**Demand to release the entire amount of funds for Centrally-sponsored post-
matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to SC/ST
category in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Tamil Nadu is implementing the Centrally-sponsored scheme of post-matric scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pursuing higher studies in recognized institutions. Under this scheme, 100 per cent Central assistance is provided to all States/Union Territories beyond the committed liability. In the three financial years, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Government of Tamil Nadu has filed claims totaling ₹ 2,551.38 crores for both the categories. As against this claim, only ₹ 1314.24 crore was released by the Government of India leaving a balance of ₹ 1167.69 crores.