

[9 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I also associate myself with what Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy has stated.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa) : Sir, I also associate myself with what Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy has stated.

Second International Airport at Chennai

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation had put up a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for construction of a new international airport at Chennai. The main objective of the proposal was the development of an airport hub for South India. It was done after arriving at the air traffic projections for the next 20 years, thereby justifying the proposal for developing the airport through private participation. A detailed proposal in this regard has already been sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, for giving "in principle" approval so as to take up the second phase which includes activities like master planning, recommendation on institutional structure, land acquisition, etc.

The Government of India informed us that the Union Cabinet had already decided to restructure the airports in metropolitan cities, including Chennai, as world-class airports on a long-term lease basis. The decision to lease the airports on a long-term basis to the private operators would jeopardize the efforts of the State Government to have a new international airport at Chennai. Further, this project has a better chance of implementation on a BOO/BOOT basis, without recourse to Government funds. Unless this proposal is cleared, I am afraid, Tamil Nadu will stand to suffer in the competition from the neighbouring States in attracting foreign direct investment in industrial projects.

I humbly request the Government to accord "in principle" approval to the new international airport proposal of the Tamil Nadu Government, and drop the Airports Authority of India's proposal to lease out the Chennai airport on a long-term basis, and render justice. Thank you.

Serious drinking water problem in Karnataka

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to make this Special Mention and draw the