

Annexure II

(133)

MEMORANDAM SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE MINORITIES AND THE
SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE TO DROP THE AIRPORT EXTENSION
PROJECT FROM MALAVOOR, ADYAPADY AND KOLAMBE VILLAGES OF
MANGALORE TALUK.

To,

Sri. H.M. SHAVUL,
CHAIRMAN,
NATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA,
OPERATIONAL COMPLEX,
SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT,
NEW DELHI-110003.

Sir,

It is a known and a well publicized fact that the experts and the pilots have ranked Mangalore Airport as the number one dangerous airport in the country. (See Tharanga, Kannada Weekly Magazine, September 25, 1994, pp.22-30). This is because of its table top set up.

The proposed second runway does not address or rectify the already existing danger, but blindly copies the existing table top model of the first runway, and thereby multiplies hazards to life and safety, both to the air-passengers and to the many people living in either sides of the valley. Besides this, a host of health and safety hazards, multitude of problems touching upon the life and the property of the people such as the following are hereby brought to your notice:-

- a) Close to the proposed runway a couple of major industries like Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, Nagarjuna Steel, etc have come up and these are situated within an aerial distance

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of about 3 Kms. The sky-high chimneys of the industries, the toxic gases emanating from them, the inferno like flames burning in the sky over chimney and many more risk related factors known to the experts in the relevant fields- pose unprecedented havoc and high probability risk to the flying aero-planes. Every person who has concern for people's safety, foresight regarding the upcoming industries, and who values life and property should positively thwart the implementation of the proposed Mangalore Airport extension project.

b) The putrid smell of poisonous gases from M.R.P.L. hovers over the whole area including the airport, and creates discomfort and sickness for the people of the place. The people have been raising hues and cries over the stench and smell and have been sending representations to put an end to the ordeal which they suffer. In this context, would it be reasonable, nay appropriate to have national or an international airport at a smelly-nauseating region? The foul-smelling toxic gases besides being a health hazard, pose as a unwelcome sign to the airport.

c) The thick smoke from the industries, has decreases the visibility for the pilots. The haze, the mist and the increasing smog makes both the present and the proposed site unsuitable for the airport. If one were to take into account the propensity for the rise in the industries around the area, the present site of the airport remains a question mark for its existence. In the wake of the quantum leap of the private aircrafts and the competition for better comfort and safety, would anyone care to take risk by using the proposed airport which is as close to a death warrant.

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d) The airport authorities already know the existing menace of the birds flying over the airport causing damage to the aircraft as well as posing a threat for a possible mishap. In the opinion of the ornithologists, more birds tend to fly over a valley, than over a plain. In our case, the area over the valleys functions as the runway. And there precisely lies the risk.

e) There is a river flowing East to West to the South of the present and proposed runway. During heavy rains the floods cover the entire region of 500 hectares of cultivating land and during this time the residents of the area are forced to seek shelter on the hill top alongwith their cattles. If the proposed runway is done, then, there will be no place for the people and for the cattle to seek shelter from the floods and survive.

f) The proposed of the second runway has been in news for the past 15 years and the survey work had been carried out. Since then, this place has been denied the rights of development. It has caused a lot of mental torture to the people. Whereas at the present condition, the market value of the property around the already Govt. acquired area for the airport fetches between Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 thousand per one cent. It is disheartening fact that the Govt. has failed to recognise this market rate and has offered a pittance of Rs.250-300 per one cent of land. This is not only

a subversion of justice but also a gesture of humiliation and contempt for the residents of the locality, who as a whole belong to SCHEDULED CASTES, BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES.

We would like to bring your kind notice that since 1989 requests have been made to the concerned officials including the Prime Minister and the Civil Aviation Minister (copies enclosed) to drop the project. We have staged a days Dharna on 6-11-89 & on 13th March '96 before the D.C. Office of Mangalore. We have also appraised the officials the well founded dangers, inconveniences, and displacements of the people. We hope all these honourable people will sympathetically consider our appeal being mindful of the welfare of the people, demonstrating themselves as leaders who care and understand.

We request and demand your kindness to bring to the notice of the Govt. Our reasons and displeasure to initiate the aforesaid project. We would appreciate very much if you could use your good offices to convince them to drop the project. You would be doing a great service in the interest of the many people who will be suffering by various ways on account of the project.

Yours Sincerely,

Place: Mangalore

Date : 22 / 03 / 96

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Encl: ..

1. Representation copy sent to the Late Prime Minister Sri Rajiv Gandhi.
2. Representation copy sent to Sri C.M. Ibrahim, Minister for Civil Aviation.

C.C. To:

1. Sri H.D. Devegowda, Prime Minister of India.
2. Sri J.H. Patel, Chief Minister of Karnataka.
3. Sri C.M. Ibrahim, Minister for Civil Aviation and Broad Casting.
4. Sri Oscar Fernandes, Member of Parliament, Udupi
5. Sri Dananjaya Kumar Member of Parliament Mangalore.
6. Sri B.L. Shanker Member of Parliament, Chickmagalore.
7. Sri B.A. Moideen, Minister for small scale industries & Incharge for D.K..
8. A.B. Vajapaye, Opposition leader, Lok Sabha.
9. Yediyoreppa, Opposition Leader, Legislative Assembly.
10. Sri Ramesh Jigajinagi, Minister for Revenue.
11. Smt. Menaka Gandhi, M.P.
12. Members of the Legislative Assembly Karnataka, U.K. District
13. Chairman and Board of Directors, M.R.P.L.
14. Chairman and Board of Directors, Nagarjuna Co.
15. President & Members Canara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore.
16. District Commissioner of D.K.
17. Assistant Commissioner of D.K.
18. Aerodrom Officer, Bajpe
19. Rohitaksha K. District Convenior, D.C.C.
20. Director General Of Civil Aviation. (D.G.C.A.)
21. Director Air Safety. (D.A.S.)

Address for Service:

PARISH PRIEST
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH,
ADYAPADY P.O. VIA-BAJPE
MANGALORE-574 142, S.K.

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