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Title: Need to recruit adequate local manpower in ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu -laid.

**SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):** ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) is the only functional ISRO/DOS centre located in state of Tamilnadu, it is one of the unique high technology installations of ISRO and is responsible for rocket engine testing, Integration of rocket stages, handling and storage of Earth Storable and Cryogenic propellants for ISRO's launches. It is geographically the biggest centre in ISRO with 8000 acres of land and strategically located on National Highway 47.

This centre is located in my Constituency and it was formed in the year 1982, I came to know from the records that, IPRC is doing 80% of Liquid Propulsion system related testing, assembly and integration works and supplying the rocket stages for launches. IPRC/ISRO centre is engaging nearly 2000 contract employees for more than 20 years and has not enhanced its permanent staff strength. At present, the centre is functioning with nearly 700 permanent employees whereas the nearby ISRO VSSC, located at Veli Kerala is having nearly 7000 permanent manpower and having only 700 contract manpower.

I came to know from news dailies that URSC/ISRO Sangalore centre is recruiting more than 180 posts in Admin, Auxiliary, Technician posts in group C and D category via vide Advt.No.URSC:O1:2020 dated February 15, 2020 on a single stretch whereas the pioneering IPRC/ISRO centre which requires more number of manpower is operated by contract Man powers. In ISRO many times such mass

recruitments were sanctioned by ISRO Headquarters whereas no such recruitments were made to fulfill the manpower requirements of the lone IPRC/ISRO centre located at Tamil Nadu. IPRC centre is not providing preference for local candidates in Group C and D recruitments, As per Tamilnadu state orders all central government installations in the state should provide 69% of Group C and D posts to local candidates. IPRC/ISRO management has not provided recruitments for local candidates for the past 15 years and has not increased its permanent staff strength.

As Hon'ble Minister is aware Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi districts are having high literacy rate and having more qualified technical candidates but it is pity to note that none of these people have been recruited even in Group-C & D posts in the nearby R&D installation of ISRO in recent decades. IPRC/ISRO is only having only 4 Safety engineers to look after the safety systems of Propellant Storage and Transportation facility which handles tones of hazardous propellants. The propellant handling infrastructures is operated by un-skilled contract manpower at IPRC. Similar Propellant handling Infrastructures at ISRO's Launch PAD SDSC Sriharikota, is having nearly 150 permanent, to look after safety related activities.

I request the Hon'ble Minster to direct Department of Space to recruit adequate local manpower in IPRC, Tamil Nadu.