

>

Title: Regarding modernisation of Trichy International Airport in Tamil Nadu-laid

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALI): Trichy International Airport is the third-largest airport in Tamil Nadu in terms of total passenger traffic next to Chennai and Coimbatore. The airport is served by two Indian and four foreign carriers providing direct connectivity to 3 domestic and 5 international destinations. This airport is Iso 9001:2008 quality certified and was declared an international airport on 4 October 2012.

At present, Trichy international Airport is connected with just 05 international cities i.e. Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Dubai, Sharjah, Colombo and 03 domestic cities i.e. Chennai, Bengaluru and Kochi. Only 07 airlines are operating flight services from Trichy International Airport namely Air Asia, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo Malind6 Air and Sri Lankan Airlines. It is pertinent to mention here that there is no Air India domestic flight service to any domestic destinations in the country. So an Air India domestic flight be operated from Trichy to Delhi via Chennai or via Hyderabad or via Bengaluru.

Trichy has high catchment of passengers for Singapore Malaysia and various Gulf countries. Around 8 lakh people are working in Singapore and Malaysia. More than 10 lakh people from Tamil Nadu are working in Gulf countries. Trichy Pillaiyar Kovil (Vinayaka Temple) built on top of the hill in Trichy is the world famous temple and lots of people from various countries visit this temple every day particularly during the festival season. Further, holy cities of Vailankanni and Nagoor can be

reached in just 2 to 3 hours from Trichy by road. Further, Trichy is situated in the centre of Tamil Nadu and also called educational hub of Tamil Nadu. Further all the Central & State government departments/offices and many public sector undertakings/industries like BHEL, BEL, Railway Coach Factory, Ordnance Factory and lot of small scale industries are there in which thousands of employees are working in Trichy area. So this airport can be connected with more international cities and domestic cities for the convenience of pilgrims, tourists and govt officials. Due to increase in air traffic, Trichy International Airport needs to expand both its flight operations to more foreign destinations as well as expand its present runway to facilitate landing and take off of jumbo jets/flights and also needs to construct a modern Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower in the airport. Hence, I urge upon the Union Govt through this august House to take immediate steps to expand the Trichy International Airport as well as to expand the present runway to facilitate operation of more flights to more foreign destinations and domestic cities.