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Title: Regarding development of tourism infrastructure in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu-laid.

SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM) : Rameswaram is an important pilgrim destination of our country. Every year, crores of pilgrims visit Rameswaram from different parts of the country. They also visit Danushkodi, but the facilities are not upto the mark to accommodate the tourists. Enough accommodation is not available. Water facility is not available and transport facility is awful. For any pilgrim visiting Rameswaram he has to come to Madurai and take road. It takes four hours to reach Rameswaram. Considering the heavy tourist traffic, I request that an airstrip can be set up in Rameswaram. This will not only attract tourists, but also reduce the travel time. Rameswaram can be included under the UDAN Scheme and flights can be operated from Tuticorin & Madurai. The train facilities are inadequate and introduction of trains to major cities in different parts of the country is the need of the hour. Rameswaram station requires modernization and I request the government to modernize the same with a provision of Executive Lounge on the lines of Madurai station and escalators to help the passengers.

I request the Government to allocate adequate funds for the development of infrastructure at Rameswaram and also set up an office of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation there to help the pilgrims and tourists.