

Title: Regarding construction of an airport in/around Thiruvannamalai

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Thiruvannamalai is a religious place which is Arunachaleshwara Shiva Temple and world renowned and nearly 15 lakhs Pilgrims from India and abroad congregate in Thiruvannamalai for Parikrama (14.5 Kms) around Arunachala Holy Hill on every full moon day. The annual Karthikai Deepam festival attracts more than 35 lakhs of pilgrims including NRIS and foreigners to this place. The road and rail infrastructure to this place are yet to be modernized. Tourists from abroad and other parts of the country, who fly to Thiruvannamalai, the nearest Airport happens to be 200 Km away at Chennai or Bangalore. This place has huge potential for revenue generation from religious tourism which is yet to be tapped due to absence of nearby airport. In view of this, I request the honourable Union Minister for Civil Aviation to instruct the concerned Authority to take viable steps to build an Airport in/around Thiruvannamalai for benefit of the visitors to this place.