

Need to build an Airport in Tiruvannamalai-laid

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu is a religious place of national and international importance and prominent pilgrimage destination, which is famous for Arunachaleswar (Lord Shiva) Temple and Ramana Maharishi Ashram. Around 1 -1.5 lakhs pilgrims visit the said temple every day. Further, 15 to 20 lakhs pilgrims from India and abroad congregate in Tiruvannmalai for Parikrama (Girivallam-14.5 Kms) around the holy hill of Arunachaleswar every full moon day. The Annual Kartikeyei Deepam Festival attracts more than 35 lakhs of pilgrims including NRIs and foreigners to this place. Tourists from abroad and other parts of the country prefer to fly to Tiruvanmalai but 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 the absence of nearby airport. Therefore, I request the Hon?ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India to kindly instruct the concerned authorities to take viable steps to build an airport under RCS-UDAN scheme, in/around Tiruvannamalai for benefit of visitors to this place.