

**Title : Need for upgradation of Chennai Air Terminal at the earliest - Laid.**

**SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR) :** Our country's tourism and business potential attracts more foreign visitors. India is becoming a destination to many but inadequate Air Terminal facilities come in the way. It is estimated that about 11 million passengers travel by air towards India annually but our International Airports all put together as of now can handle only 5 million.

Technically advanced, sophisticated, modern Air Terminal at a strategic location is the need of the hour. So, it would be ideal if Chennai International air Terminal near the sea coast is extended ahead of Hyderabad and Bangalore. It would enhance our air handling capability to a great extent. Upgradation of Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore Air Terminals may be taken up as a mega project for an air-worthy triangle to be completed in a phased manner.

Unlike Hyderabad and Bangalore, extending of Chennai International Air Terminal is instantly feasible because more than two hundred acres of land near Porur adjacent to the tarmac area of the existing Chennai Airport is readily available and the Government of Tamil Nadu has already identified foreign investors either for BOT or BOLT construction scheme investing about Rs. 1200 crores. Government of India must take a coordinated approach and decision to combine all of three and carry out first the Chennai Air Terminal project.