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Title: Need to expedite upgradation of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu as a separate unit with its Headquarters at Mahendragiri.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) situated at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu is a constituent unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which was started in 1984. It is one of the important units for the Indian Space activity because it contributes in a major way for systems development, assembly, integration and testing of Liquid and Cryogenic Rocket Stages and High Altitude Testing of Satellite Propulsion Systems including various other activities.

The present strength of employees in LPSC, Mahendragiri is about 550 which includes senior scientists, technicians, administrative and supporting staff. Though it was established 25 years ago and major developmental activities are being carried out here, its Head Office and control is still lying with Valiamala which is located near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala is already having VSSC and other small units *viz.*, TERLS, HSU besides APP in Alwaye. Another neighbouring State of Karnataka is having ISAC, ISTRAC Units in Bangalore and Master Control in Hassan.

LPSC, Mahendragiri is the only unit established under ISRO in Tamil Nadu. It is pertinent to mention here, that various units under ISRO having 250 employees or less are made as a separate centre. However, the LPSC, Mahendragiri has not yet been considered which has enough reason to be upgraded into a separate centre.

Consequent upon the persistent demand, ISRO is, now in the process of upgrading LPSC, Mahendragiri as a separate Centre.

Keeping in view of the above, I urge upon the Union Government to kindly expedite the process and upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Mahendragiri as a separate centre empowered with all administrative powers with Headquarters in Tamil Nadu.