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Title: Need to develop Courtallam Waterfall in Tamil Nadu as a tourist destination.

**\*SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I wish to bring an important issue to the notice of the Government through this august House. World famous *Courtallam* falls and its adjoining areas should be prominently included as a most sought-after tourist destination in the tourist map of India by improving the infrastructure facilities in this area. *Courtallam*, situated at a mean elevation of 520 feet on the Western Ghats is a natural marvel on earth with its cool breeze. Courtallam has several falls including Main falls, Aintharuvi (five falls), Shenbagadevi falls, Pazhaya Courtallam Aruvi (Old Courtallam falls), and Thenaruvi (Honey falls). There are several herbal medical centres in this place since a lot of varieties of herbs are found in abundance. This is also rightly called as 'Spa' of South India. Kasi Viswanathar Temple is located in Tenkasi near Courtallam. Courtallam, a gateway to Kerala, is well connected to various tourist centres like Papanasam and Manimuththaru. During South-west and North-east monsoon, *Courtallam* attracts more than 25 lakh tourists from all over the world. It is a most-sought after tourist centre throughout the year. But *Courtallam* waterfall is not included prominently in the tourist map of India. I urge through this august House that Courtallam should be prominently included in the tourist map of India and its infrastructure should be improved.

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.