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Title: Need to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Mahendragiri in district Tiruneweli, 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 my 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 of 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 and various other activities.

The present man-power strength of LPSC, Mahendragiri is about 550 which include senior scientists, technicians, administrative and supporting staffs. 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 Trivandrum in Kerala. Trivandrum in Kerala is already having VSSC and other small units viz., TERLS, IISU 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. There are various units under ISRO having even 250 employees or less than that which have been made a separate centre. However, the LPSC, Mahendragiri is not yet considered which has enough reason to be upgraded into a separate centre.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Center (LPSC), Mahendragiri into a separate centre with its Headquarters at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.