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Title: Need to restore the flights from Trichy Airport to Gulf countries.

*SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPALLI): Tiruchirapalli the fourth biggest city in Tamil Nadu with a population of 10,27,000 people comes under my Lok Sabha constituency. Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Thiruvavur are the districts surrounding Tiruchirapalli. All the people from these areas are depending on Tiruchirapalli Airport to go to other states and other countries.

Tiruchirapalli Airport is one of the oldest Customs Airports from 1936. This Airport was offered flight service to Singapore, Gulf countries, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. In 2011 alone 11 lakhs of people made use of this International Airport. Tiruchirapalli Airport ranks first among the customs airports in India.

From September, 2011 Container Cargo export-import operations have commenced in this Airport. Citing shortage of flights and personnel in 2008, Chennai-Tiruchirapalli-Calicut-Quattar flight service was cancelled. In 2009, Chennai- Tiruchirapalli-Thiruvananthapuram-Sharjah flight service was cancelled. In 2012 Tiruchirapalli-Dubai, Chennai-Tiruchirapalli-Abu Dhabi flight service and Tiruchirapalli-Singapore, Chennai- Tiruchirapalli- Kuala Lumpur and Tiruchirapalli-Singapore and Tiruchirapalli-Mumbai services were cancelled.

Except Chennai no other Airport in Tamil Nadu is having international airport. Tiruchirapalli is situated in central Tamil Nadu. Tiruchirapalli Airport needs to be upgraded as an International Civil Airport and Union Government must come forward to augment the flight services. Tiruchirapalli-Chennai direct flight service may commence from Tiruchirapalli Airport by Air India now. Civil sector flight operations from Tiruchirapalli are not handled by Air India. I urge upon the Civil Aviation Ministry not to neglect Tiruchirapalli Airport. As this Airport is situated in the central Tamil Nadu, the already cancelled flight operations must be resumed. I demand the Centre to take necessary action immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Abdul Rahman, Shri K. Sugumar, Shri S. S. Ramasubbu, and Shri O.S. Manian are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri P. Kumar.