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Title: Need to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu as a separate Centre.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): 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 during 1984. It is one of the important units in the Indian Space activity as it contributes in 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 strength of LPSC, Mahendragiri is about 550 which includes senior scientists, technicians, administrative and supporting staff. It was established 25 years ago and it carries out major developmental activities. However, its Head Office and control is still in Valiamala which is located near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram 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. It is pertinent to mention here that various units under ISRO having even 250 employees or less are made as a separate centre. However, the LPSC, Mahendragiri has not yet been considered so far which has enough reason to be upgraded into a separate centre.

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