

an>

Title: Need to start commercial operation of helicopter service to Ooty.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with the blessings of my leader Amma I appeal to the Government to start helicopter services to Ooty.

Ooty is famous for its tea. The tea and tourism festival is one of the major tourist attractions in Ooty and so is the Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary. There is competition between the film units from the South and the Bollywood to shoot films in Ooty. The Queen of the Nilgiris, Ooty, has become filmdom's new Mecca with the Hindi film makers now shifting locations from Mumbai to Ooty.

Ooty has one helipad at Theettukal. The Theettukal helipad, the closest to the town approved by the Airports Authority of India long ago, is used for defence purposes and VIP services. Pawan Hans was supposed to start its service with Bell 407 helicopters.

I urge upon the Government to remove hurdles behind starting commercial operation of helicopter service to Ooty. Thank you.