

Regarding need to increase the number of flight services between Salem and Chennai in Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI (SALEM): The airport at Salem is a tiny one, capable to operate only ATR-72 type aircrafts. Flights from Salem are operated to only four cities viz. Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kochi on limited basis. Since Salem airport is a shift airport, there are no flight operations during night. Chennai bound passengers from Salem and vice versa are increasing day by day, and therefore, there has been a demand to increase the flight services in between Salem-Chennai and Chennai-Salem. Similarly, flights to Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi are operated only four days a week. Passengers demand that this should be made daily services to all these places. Flights to Kochi are being operated by Alliance Air. However, it has become a routine affair for the Alliance Air to cancel the flight to Kochi quite often, putting passengers in an awkward situation that they can neither go by road or by train. It should be stopped. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to increase the flight services to Chennai from Salem and also convert four days a week flight services to Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi from Salem into daily services to all these places as well as enhance the basic facilities at the airport.