

**Need to declare Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu as a Point of Call and grant international status to it- Laid**

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** I rise today to highlight the long-standing underutilization of Madurai Airport, which was declared a 24/7 facility on 1st October 2014. More than ten years later, the airport still lacks night flight operations, leaving its true potential untapped. Currently, Madurai handles around 110 services to major domestic hubs like Chennai and Bengaluru and to international destinations such as Dubai and Colombo, yet not a single flight operates after 10 p.m. Across South Tamil Nadu, citizens, industry leaders, MLAs, and MPs have repeatedly pointed out that the airports exclusion as a Point of Call (PoC) under key bilateral air service agreements is the primary obstacle. Airlines such as AirAsia, Batik Air, Tiger Airways, and Air Arabia are ready to operate, but the absence of PoC status and permission for night operations continues to hinder tourism, trade, and economic growth in the region. Furthermore, the lack of full international status prevents visa-on-arrival facilities, causing significant inconvenience to passengers and discouraging foreign investors and tourists from choosing Madurai as their entry point. I urge the Union Government to immediately declare Madurai as a PoC, grant international status, and operationalize night flights, enabling it to serve as a dynamic economic gateway for southern Tamil Nadu.