

Title: Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Arupadai Vedugal Tourist Circuit. – Laid.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): In Tamil Nadu, Lord Muruga blesses the devotees in six places. They are viz., Palani (Near Madurai and Coimbatore), Tiruchendur (Near Toothukudi), Swamimali (Near Kumbakonam/ Thanjavur), Tiruthani (Near Kancheepuram and Chennai), Palamuthircholai (Near Madurai). Apart from domestic tourists, the foreign tourists especially from Malaysia and South Africa visit the above six abodes of Lord Muruga in their tour itinerary. Moreover, most of the temples are located near major tourist centres like Madurai, Coimbatore, Tanjavur/Kumbakonam, Kancheepuram and Chennai. The development of these places would facilitate the foreign and domestic tourists to visit these places in large numbers thereby extending their duration of stay in the above mentioned places.

Considering the importance of the visit of "Arupadai Veedugal" by foreign tourists, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, an undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu has also included the above places in its "14 day Sunny South Tour". The 'Arupadai Veedugal Tourist Circuit' should be developed by allocating necessary funds from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

For the development of Tourist Circuit the Commissionerate of Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu has already sent a proposal to the Union Government for the grant of Rs. 798.97 lakhs.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to make immediate necessary action on the above proposal.