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Title : Need to operate international flights from Madurai, Tamil Nadu to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Gulf countries.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Madurai, a pilgrimage city in Tamil Nadu is the only Airport left without any international operation. People from Madurai and South Tamil Nadu are settled in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and carrying out business and their families very frequently travelling between these stations and many people work in Gulf countries.

All passengers travelling to International stations are taking their flights to Chennai for onward connecting flights are facing lot of difficulties. If this facility is made available at Madurai it will reduce the hardship faced by International passengers and groups of foreigners travelling to Madurai during season timings.

An International operation will engender a speedier economic growth of South Tamil Nadu and also will help foreign tourist visiting world renowned Madurai Meenakshi Temple, Kodaikanal, Rameswaram, Thekkadi, Kumili, Kanyakumari and Tuticorin Port and the tourism will also improve. Perishables like vegetable and fruits for export are being carried by road to Chennai or Trivandrum which is a time and cost consuming factor.

Indian Airlines is operating a flight with A-320 aircraft daily from Madurai to Chennai carrying International Passengers Chennai-Singapore, Chennai-Kuala Lumpur and Chennai-Gulf sectors.

The present infrastructure facilities available at Madurai Airport are sufficient to handle the A-320 aircraft comfortably.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to operate an International Flight from Madurai thrice in a week to Singapore/Kuala Lumpur or Gulf countries with A-320 Aircraft being operated by Indian Airlines, as there is a full set of staff/office and all infrastructure facilities/equipments available at Madurai Airport at present.