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Title: Need to set up a Greenfield Airport near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

**SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI):** It is a long dream of the people of Kanyakumari District to have an Airport in Kanyakumari, which is a renowned spiritual and tourist destination of our Nation. I had met the then Minister of Civil Aviation and the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu earlier and had submitted a representation for setting up of an Airport in Kanyakumari area. In this connection the Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu had recommended to the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation, New Delhi for the formation of Greenfield Airport at Kanyakumari vide his letter No.21358/I.2/2009-5, dated 23-11-2009. But the matter is pending in the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the past 3 years without any development.

Kanyakumari normally attracts more than 3 million Indian and International Tourists every year. Revenue authorities in Kanyakumari District had identified 800 acres of land near Kanyakumari for development of Green Field Airport near Kanyakumari.

Kerala state had developed three international airports in Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhicode during the last 10 years within a narrow stretch of 300 km distance. These airports were constructed with the sole initiative and efforts of the local people with the cooperation of the Kerala Government with the sole aim of providing employment to 2 million Kerala emigrant people now working in gulf countries. Through these airports exclusive regular daily flights are organized to gulf countries and Singapore ferrying workers for having gainful employment in these countries. In Kannur another international airport is being developed which is about 50 km from Kozhicode airport. Similarly international air traffic from Kanyakumari will increase employment opportunities for people in southern region of Tamil Nadu where there is very little development now.

Russian nuclear experts and Technicians, who regularly visit the Russian aided mega nuclear power plant in Kudankulam near Kanyakumari in extreme south Tamil Nadu are also eagerly waiting for an international airport at Kanyakumari.

And I hope that the Union Government will fulfil the dream of the people of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu by passing necessary orders for the formation of a Greenfield Airport.