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Title: Need to facilitate operation of flights by foreign airlines at Trichy Airport, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): My constituency, Trichy is the district headquarters and it is the centre for the neighbouring 10 southern districts of T  mil Nadu. Trichy serves as the hub for all these districts. Trichy Airport serves as the important airport for the people of all these districts. People from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu frequently fly out from Trichy Airport for higher education and for meeting business commitments, apart from those skilled workers who go out to earn their livelihood.

Since Trichy Airport is not included as a 'Point of Call' in the Bilateral Air Service Agreement, (BASA), all of them face a lot of difficulties. Only after the foreign air carriers include an airport as a 'Point of Call', such air carriers can start their operations. The foreign airlines list out such airports in India from where they want to have operations in the bilateral Air Service Agreement.

It appears that the foreign airlines such as Air Arabia, Silk Air, Oman Air, Fly Dubai, etc. have seen the potential at the Trichy Airport, but they are not able to do the operations because Trichy Airport is not included as a 'Point of Call', under BASA.

Hence, I request the Govt. of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation, to include Trichy Airport as a 'Point of Call', under BASA so that foreign airlines can start their operations and facilitate movement of people of my constituency.

Simultaneously, it will also help people of the entire southern districts of Tamil Nadu.