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Title: Need to include Kodaikanal Hill Station under Smart Cities Programme.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House. Kodaikanal, the popular hill station developed by the Britishers is also called the Princess of Hills. It is situated in my Dindigul constituency of Tamil Nadu. Though this hill town has become very popular, the town needs development and infrastructure. The Government of Tamil Nadu led by our leader Puratchi Thalaivi, Amma released Rs. 100 crore to beautify the ancient horticultural garden and to widen and illuminate the roads apart from desilting the natural lake on top of this hill station.

The Union Ministry of Urban Development has identified 100 towns to be developed, with infrastructural facilities, as Modern Smart Cities with an allocation of Rs. 7300 crore. As hill stations are also to be included under the Smart Cities Programme, Kodaikanal may also be included under this Programme. This is an urgent need from the infrastructure point of view as inland tourists and foreigners are visiting this hill station throughout the year in great number.

Modernization of Kodaikanal may provide for a helipad and a Greenfield Airport apart from protecting the eco system and developing a wildlife sanctuary. Linking of the bordering Kerala through Kosan Road may develop Kodaikanal further.

Hence, I urge upon the Centre to include Kodaikanal Hill Station in the Central Government's Smart City Programme.