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title: Need to introduce direct flight services from Delhi to Coimbatore and other cities in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Air India is the biggest Public Sector Air service provider in the country. It connects many cities in India and abroad. Hence, I appeal to the Government to provide direct flight services to Coimbatore and other cities in Tamil Nadu.

Unfortunately, Air India services to cities in Tamil Nadu are not up to the mark. The Air India is not providing direct air services from Delhi to Coimbatore, Delhi to Madurai, Delhi to Tiruchirapalli and Vice versa. Because of that Members of Parliament, Union Ministers, State Ministers, Businessmen, people from Film Industry, Tourists- both national and international and frequent travellers face problems.

All these are profitable routes. Many Private Air operators, Jet Air services, Indigo, Spicejet etc., have their multiple direct air service to Coimbatore and other Tamil Nadu cities like Madurai and Tiruchirapalli. It is surprising why Air India is not introducing flights on these routes.

Further, in my Nilgiris Parliamentary Constituency, Ooty has one helipad at Theettukal. The Theettukal helipad closest to the town was approved by Airports Authority of India long ago and used for defence and VIP services. Pawan Hans was supposed to start its from here service with Bell 407.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to start direct flight services from Delhi to Coimbatore and other cities in Tamil Nadu and Helicopter Services to Ooty.