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Title: Need to restart the airport in Salem, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM (SALEM): Thank you Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of Civil Aviation.

Before starting my maiden speech, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and my constituency people to elect me as a Member of Parliament from Salem. In my Salem constituency, an airport was constructed in the year 1993. At present, there is no scheduled commercial operation from Salem airport. Private airlines have operated for some time but could not continue for lack of convenient operating time.

Salem airport has high potential and commercial opportunities with a huge catchment area. Naamakal, Erode, Mettur, Oosur, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri are at present being served by Bangalore Airport. If the Salem airport is operated, the people of the Salem constituency will immensely benefit. The farmers of this region are producing flowers, mangoes, tomatoes etc. Those farmers would gain better price for their produce.

If there will be some early morning departure and late night arrival flight from Salem airport, then the operation of this airport will be more successful. In my Salem constituency, there are many colleges, mines, famous steel plants, cement factories textile business and hospitals. If you start the aircraft from Salem, the airport can earn a good profit and benefit my constituency people.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister to consider and implement this pending issue to provide aircraft facilities to my constituency people.