

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to promote Courtallam in Tamil Nadu as a tourist spot - Laid.

**SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI (TENKASI):** Courtallam Waterfalls is one of the famous tourist spots in Tamil Nadu. Numerous waterfalls and cascades along with health resorts make Courtallam as the Spa of South India. Many rivers like Chittar, Manimuthar, Pachaiyar and Thamirabarani originate in this region.

Courtallam having scenic surroundings is connected by Road, Rail and Air. The nearest airport is Tuticorin Airport and the nearest railway stations are Shencottah and Tenkasi.

Courtallam has nine waterfalls. Perarushi (main falls) the biggest falls in Courtallam, is about 60 m high. The flow of water is interrupted by the Pongumakadal, a 19m deep crater and comes down with greatly reduced impact, making a bath safe. In Chitraruvi (small falls), the flow is thin. Here naturally separate places for men and women are there to bathe. The other waterfalls include Shenbagadevi falls, Thenaruvi, Aintharuvi, Pazhathotta Aruvi, the 'VIP falls', Pazhaya Courtalla Aruvi, Pull Aruvi (Tiger Falls).

The three major waterfalls reachable by road are the Main Falls, Five Falls, and Old Courtallam Falls. Other waterfalls like Shenbaga Devi Falls and Honey Falls are reachable only by trekking on the mountain. Therkumalai Estate, Boat houses and Old Courtallam Falls, Snake Park, Aquarium, Children's Park, Eco Park and Gundar Dam near Shencottah are major attractions around Courtallam Town. Courtallam is an excellent health resort because of the herbal medicinal properties of the water and for its salubrious climate and natural scenery.

There is an urgent need to provide all necessary infrastructure facilities in and around Courtallam town to facilitate both domestic and foreign tourists. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to provide a comprehensive package of Rs. 100crores to promote Courtallam as the premier Tourist spot in Tamil Nadu.