

## **Sixteenth Loksabha**

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Title: Regarding augmentation of infrastructure at Coimbatore Airport.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Madam Speaker, Coimbatore is called the Manchester of South India and considered as the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest city and number one industrial city in Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore has been selected as one of the Smart Cities in the country. Now, Coimbatore is a fast-growing city with all-round development in employment, education, health, agriculture, etc.

Coimbatore Airport caters to the needs of nearby districts and cities namely, the Dollar City of South India of Tirupur; Steel city of Salem in Tamil Nadu, Textile City of Erode; Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu; and Palakkad and some other districts of Kerala. Further, a large volume of goods from both industrial sector and agricultural sector are being exported from Coimbatore through highways and airways to other cities in the country and abroad.

At present, there are around 14 lakh people who travel annually to and fro this airport. About 7000 tonnes of cargo per year is handled here. Due to shortage of flight service, both for domestic and international operations, the textiles and knitting industrial units and agricultural sector are facing a lot of problem. The farmers who are producing perishable goods like vegetables, fruits and flowers, are now compelled to goto the far away airports of Chennai, Trichy, Bengaluru and Kochi, to export their goods resulting in a huge loss of money and time. Further, Coimbatore airport was conferred with international status in the year 2012. It must get more air connectivity.

In view of this, I request the Union Government to take necessary action for the expansion of the existing Coimbatore Airport.

HON. SPEAKER:

Dr. Kulmani Samal,

Shrimati V. Sathyabama and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Nagarajan.