

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1954
(To be answered on the 9th December 2021)**

UPGRADATION OF MADURAI AIRPORT

1954. SHRI S. VENKATESAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) where the Government has upgraded or notified the status of the Madurai airport as an international airport and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether any decision has been taken on the said issue and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to speed up the process?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a): The Ministry of Civil Aviation had filed a combined Counter Affidavit dated 13.07.2021 in the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court in Writ Petitions No. 7572 of 2021, No. 8960/2021 and No. 8961/2021 inter-alia informing the Hon'ble Court that approval of the Union Cabinet is required for declaring an airport as an International Airport. Hon'ble Court vide Order dated 14.07.2021 had disposed of the said court cases without passing any particular directions.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon traffic potential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights, besides various other infrastructural requirements. Madurai airport is a Customs airport and all the designated Indian carriers are free to mount operations from Madurai to foreign destinations under the ambit of bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASA) concluded by India with foreign countries as per mutually agreed capacity limits. With respect to foreign airlines, operations are governed by bilateral ASAs between India and the country of the foreign airline concerned. Any foreign airline can operate from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the ASA.