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Title: Regarding cargo facilities at Rajahmundry airport-Laid.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY) : Now-a-days, time is the essence of any activity, be it business or private; and, it becomes more important when it comes to transportation of goods. And, the best transport of goods is none other than air. So, there is a need to start cargo facilities at more and more airports in the country for quick transportation of goods for pushing the economic activity.

To address this issue, GOI asked Airports Authority of India Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Co., Ltd., to develop air cargo facilities at airports managed by AAI. As a part of its mandates, AAICLASCL has identified some airports for international cargo facilities, international courier facilities and domestic cargo facilities. And, Rajahmundry has been chosen as one of the airports for commencing domestic cargo facilities.

Rajahmundry airport was built during British time. Then our beloved leader, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Garu, signed MoU with AAI in 2007 for its modernization and works completed in 2011. Then, AAI extended runway to facilitate landing of A320 and A321 aircraft and 800 acres have been acquired for this purpose with an objective to make it an international airport.

As AAICLASCL decided to start cargo facilities and also make an integrated cargo terminal at Rajahmundry. But, so far no progress has been

made. Since all the necessary facilities are available at Rajahmundry Airport, I request Government of India to immediately take steps to start cargo facilities from Rajahmundry and international courier and cargo facilities as soon as Rajahmundry airport is declared as international airport.