

Title: Need to complete the expansion work of Bajpe Airport in Mangalore, Karnataka.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the expansion of Bajpe, Mangalore, Airport including extension of runway has been underway for quite some time, but the work is not picking up enough momentum to ensure timely completion to avoid escalation in project outlay.

The Government of Karnataka on its part has spent more than Rs. 11 crore for land acquisition and re-settlement of the displaced families and has already given possession of land to Airport Authority of India. Mangalore on the Western Coast serves a vast hinterland of populous towns and cities and also has a port handling much cargo traffic. The region attracts tourists from Indian and abroad in large numbers, apart from the 4.5 lakh NRIs working in the Gulf countries who visit their home towns in close frequencies.

Presently, they have to change over at Mumbai or elsewhere because of lack of facilities at Bajpe, Mangalore, to receive wide-bodied aircraft like Airbus or larger versions of Boeing which fly on national and international sectors. Further, a large number of Haj pilgrims from this region visit Mecca every year and they are put to hardships because of transshipment at Mumbai. Our neighbouring State, Kerala, has three international airports generating enough passenger revenue. Mangalore has much more revenue-generating potential if the work is completed early.

I urge the Centre not to slacken the pace of work at Bajpe for lack of Budgeted plan funds and to avail of Contingency Plan Funds available with the Ministry of Civil Aviation meant for projects of utmost public utility.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.27 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)