

Title: Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an International Airport - Laid.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government for conversion of Sonegaon (Nagpur) airport into an International Airport.

Sir, the importance of Nagpur city from geographical and from security reasons is very significant not only that now the Buti Bori Industrial Estate, one of the biggest of its kind in Asia which is going to generate new industrial atmosphere, but also due to projects that are being set up here are to the tune of Rs.20,000 crore out of which some have already been proposed and have applied for industrial licences.

Sir, for the last two years Nagpur airport is available for air cargo operation to uplift international cargo and runway has already been extended to 10,800 feet and recarpetted for operations to meet the wide-bodied aircraft demand. International air cargo charters are also being operated without any problems from the runway.

In spite of the above air traffic potential and commercial viability, Nagpur is virtually cut off from all the four Southern States, Calcutta and Madhya Pradesh.

Making Nagpur an International Passenger Airport will help divert the extra crowd and burden from the over-populated cities. Moreover, nearly 3000 Haj pilgrims visit Jeddah from Vidarbha and adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to kindly take immediate necessary action on the above proposal which will go a long way to change the face of the most backward region in our country.