

Title: Need for expeditious upgradation of Mangalore Airport, Karnataka.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (UDUPI): Sir, the expansion and upgradation of Bajpe (Mangalore) airport has been pending due to inadequate allocation of funds.

Serving a vast hinterland of pilgrim centres (Temples) beach and tourist resorts, technical/medical education centres and a trading centre with a flourishing export/import harbour at Mangalore, the Bajpe airport has the potential to generate enormous air traffic revenue both domestic and overseas. A large number of people from this area are working in the Gulf and also undertake Haj Pilgrimage every year.

In the adjoining State of Kerala all the three airports have been upgraded as International airports with AIR INDIA EXPRESS launching their low-budget flights to Gulf from Kozhikode and Kochi. Additional land for expanding the runway to receive wide-bodied aircrafts (AIRBUS) has already been acquired by the State authorities and handed over to AAI. Mangalore is presently connected to Mumbai only thorough Alliance Airlines flights which do not have the capacity to cater to full seat demands. I urge the Centre to take up this project on top priority basis.