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Title : Need to withdraw the move to shift Dabolim International Airport from Dabolim to Mopa in Goa with a view to safeguard the interest of people engaged in tourism sector.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (MARMUGAO): Goa is synonymous with Tourism in India much before, other destinations followed. Tourism remains the critical employer and in a demographic analysis of the State 65% of the population remains directly or indirectly dependent on tourism.

Dabolim airport is the familiar gateway into Goa and known the world over. The entire Goa is the developed tourism belt comprising of all the hotels of any category, lodges and cheaper private accommodation. Goa's livelihood is in tourism and Dabolim airport is actually at the centre of State, equidistant to north and South.

The move to shift the location of the international airport from Dabolim to Mopa will spell disaster for Goa Tourism, Indian Tourism and Tourism for the Peninsula of India. The Airport at Dabolim is the lifeline of all tourism oriented activity and cannot be shifted to Mopa – Goa will become a desert for actions related to tourism. People will actually starve and be ruined, and, tourism will be forsaken in Goa forever. A geographical study will clearly indicate this crucial and critical criteria.

Historically Goa was supposed to be aligned with Maharashtra, but, the opinion poll decided to keep Goa as an independent State. This will be totally negated if Mopa becomes the International Airport. People of Goa will feel let down and demoralized if their sentiments are not respected.

I request the Central Government that Dabolim should continue to be the International Airport for Goa with upgradation and renovations. The Naval Base can move to Sea Bird, Karwar, if considered appropriate.