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Title: Need to modernize Belgaum Airport in Karnataka.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (BELGAUM): Belgaum is one of the important cities in Karnataka State. It can be mentioned as the second capital of Karnataka after Bangalore. However, the Belgaum Airport has not been developed as per the importance of the city.

Belgaum Airport is a very old one constructed during the British regime. It is now neglected and not developed as per the standard of the city. Belgaum is one of the important military bases of the country and a busy industrial area consisting Sugar and Foundry Industries. It borders with Goa and Maharashtra. There are a large number of business visitors to the city and they are to use either road or rail only. This consumes a lot of time and energy of the business community. If anyone has to catch flights, they have to reach Hubli which is 150 kms away from Belgaum. From Hubli also they have to fly either to Bangalore or Mumbai to catch the connecting flights for anywhere in the country.

Belgaum is having tourism potential drawing hundreds of foreign and domestic tourists to Gokak Falls and Yellamma Devasthanam. In spite of these attractions for tourists and other, the Belgaum Airport has not been developed. The runway is required to be expanded to facilitate use of ATR flights.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to take necessary steps immediately to develop the Belgaum Airport keeping in view of the importance of the city on account of its business and tourism potential.