

>

Title: Need to upgrade the domestic airports at Silsuan and Barbil in Orissa.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Sir, Keonjhar district in Orissa has a prominent place in the mineral map of India. It is known in the international market for its high grade iron ore, bauxite, manganese and several other minerals. These minerals are being procured from the mineral belt of Keonjhar and exported to countries like China, Japan and South Korea through Paradip and Haldia ports. Thousands of workers are deployed in the mining areas in Keonjhar and in these ports for loading, unloading and transport of these minerals for export purpose.

Keeping in view the prospect of mineral trade, a large number of companies have set up Sponge Iron Plants and propose to set up Steel Plants in the district. The high officials working in these companies need to go by plane to Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and other cities in connection with their business. The growth of trade, industry, tourism and cultural activities will be practically not possible due to want of air connectivity. On the other hand, there exist two minor airports at Silsuan and another near Barbil. There is a scope for expansion of these airports.

As such, I demand that the airports at Silsuan and Barbil be expanded and upgraded as full-fledged domestic airports for the people of Orissa and Jharkhand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pusp Jain - Not present