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Title: Regarding need to expedite the process of upgradation and expansion of Surat Airport, Gujarat .

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT): The Government of Gujarat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Airport Authority of India in September, 2003. As per this agreement the Surat Airport is to be handed over to the AAI with a condition that airport will be operationalised within two years. The Government of Gujarat has also provided Surat airport with an asset of Rs. 8.98 crore including cost of 312.67 hectare land. The Government of Gujarat has also provided power connection of 1200 KV HT and pipeline for water supply.

The AAI has requested for an additional 1065 hectares of land for expansion of Surat Airport. The State Government has started the process of acquiring this land. However, the State Government wishes to request AAI that they should take up work of expansion of runway for big cargo plane and make necessary night landing and parking facility for airline and cargo planes within the present existing airport land.

It is also requested that the work of terminal building may be expedited for facilitation of passengers.

The AAI may take up the case for increasing the number of flights and air connectivity for Surat Airport.

AAI should make a plan for optimum utilization of the present land till such time the additional land requested, is acquired. I often requested for starting up of international airport at Surat with cargo handling capacity which may be incorporated by AAI in their development plan of existing airport.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to satisfy the demand of the people for full-fledged Surat Airport.