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Title : Need to take steps for operation of Cooch Behar Airport in West Bengal.

*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH RAY (COOCH BEHAR) : Hon. Chairman Sir, my constituency is Cooch Behar which is very important historical town. The royal palace of Cooch Behar is the major attraction of this place. Till the year 1995 flight service to the town was in operation but suddenly the service was discontinued. Later in 2006-07 financial year when the Government of West Bengal made a request, 20 crores of rupees were allocated by the Central Government for resumption of flight service in Cooch Behar. This fund has been utilized but due to some reasons unknown to us, flight operations have yet not begun. In August 2009 a trial run was made but that was all. Nothing more happened. Because of unavailability of air service, health, education, business enterprises and other developmental projects are being adversely affected. Cooch Behar town is the gateway to North Eastern India and a very significant region. Therefore Sir, through you I would like to bring this to the kind notice of Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation that the State Government wishes to resume flight operations in Cooch Behar. So both the State and the Central Government should work together to bring back the town on airline radar so that the place can surge ahead in future and develop in all possible aspects. With this humble request, I thank you and conclude my Zero Hour submission.

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.