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Title: Need to start air services from Cooch Behar Airport in West Bengal.

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (COOCH BEHAR): I want to bring to the attention of this august House that in my Constituency, Cooch Behar, West Bengal, there is a full-fledged Airport with all infrastructure facilities. Till 1995, this Airport was in use but after that suddenly flight facilities were stopped. In the last so many years Hon'ble MPs' from North Bengal are continuously requesting to start flight operations from Cooch Behar Airport but even after spending crores of rupees in the last 3-4 years, the Central Government has not taken any step to make this Airport operational. Here I want to mention that all the districts of North Bengal are economically backward districts and to boost the economy in the region it is very necessary that the Cooch Behar Airport should be made operational at the earliest and also this Airport is very important from the Defence point of view. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to take immediate steps to make the Airport at Cooch Behar, West Bengal operational during the current year only.