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Title: Need to upgrade and expand airport in Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): In Karnataka, Hubli-Dharwad is the second largest city after Bangalore. It is also the educational hub of Karnataka. There is one small airport there and that airport is operating only small aircraft. In this context, I approached the Airports Authority of India and requested them to upgrade and expand the airport. They said that if the State Government gives the land of around 500 acres free of cost, they are ready to upgrade and expand it. The State Government has acquired around 500 acres of land at a cost of around Rs.350 crore and is ready to hand it over to the Airports Authority of India. Many times we have requested the Airports Authority of India to take over the land and develop the airport. But, unfortunately it is not being done. They are not taking possession of the land and upgrading the airport.

Recently, machinery for Instrumental Landing System, DOR, has come to Hubli. For the installation of this machinery, civil work is being done. But, after construction of all the buildings and other things for the installation of the machinery, the Airport Authority of India in Delhi is asking them to shift it to some other city for some other airport.

Hence, through you, I urge the Central Government and the Airports Authority of India firstly to take possession of the land for Hubli airport immediately, upgrade it and secondly not to shift the Instrumental Landing System machinery, which have arrived at Hubli and are ready for installation.