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Title: Need to make the Cooch Behar Airport in West Bengal operational.

*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (COOCH BEHAR) : Thank you Chairman Sir. Through you I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance. My constituency is Cooch Behar where there is an airport and till the year 1995, flights used to take off from the airport. But suddenly the service was stopped. Cooch Behar is an important town of North Eastern India. Many members from North Bengal have raised the matter earlier in the House and I have also mentioned the need of making the airport operational. Once, in 2008-09, the Central Government spent crores of rupees and decided to revive the airport. But nothing happened after that. Only in 2011, in August and September, flights were operated for two or three days. Again that was stopped. As you are aware that North Bengal is a backward region but flights used to take off even when Cooch Behar was a kingdom. Thus the sentiments of the people are associated with this issue. So keeping that in mind, the Government should immediately restart flight operations from Cooch Behar airport as all the infrastructures are already in place. This will also lead to overall development of the entire region. I urge upon the Government to consider this demand and take necessary steps in this regard.

I once again thank you sir for allowing me to raise this matter in this august House.