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Title: Issue regarding poor air connectivity to North-Eastern Region and Nagaland.

SHRI NEIPHU RIO (NAGALAND): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me time.

Madam, with the advancement of knowledge and technology, the world has shrunk into a global village and we are witnessing to the fast pace of progress and development in the country. However, the North-Eastern Region and particularly, the Nagaland is facing poor connectivity problem.

You are aware that Dimapur Airport is operated since 1972. However, it has now been reduced to only five flights in a week connecting to Kolkata and that is also sharing with Dibrugarh in Assam. In November, 2014, one flight was introduced only on Monday but it has again been withdrawn on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015. There are high fares due to the fact that there is a 'no fly zone'. The flights have to take a longer route of Manipur.

Therefore, I urge the Air Headquarters under the Defence Ministry to issue clearance of 'no fly zone'. During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister at Dimapur in 2014, the night landing facility was operated but later on it was closed. It should be operated for all the flights.

You are aware that Nagaland is not having even a single private airline in operation. We are left with no option but with Air India. Therefore, I request the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ask the corporate bodies to perform their social responsibility in these difficulty areas. I also request the Civil Aviation Ministry to provide us a flight which connects us to Delhi via Guwahati or Kolkata on a daily basis. The Dimapur Airport needs to be improved and upgraded. The intra-connectivity flights within the North-East also need to be restarted immediately.