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Title: Regarding the proposal of Airports Authority of India to shift Bagdogra Airport.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): "Bagdogra is the only airport for Sikkim and North Bengal. It also serves as the most important airport for a large area including Bhutan, Lower Assam, Eastern Bihar and Eastern Nepal.

The Airport is the hub for tourists visiting Eastern Himalaya and Sikkim including now Mansarover. It has seen a considerable growth in air traffic, which crossed 1 million for the first time in 2014-15, growing at over 40% percent compared to last year.

A disturbing news regarding the proposal of the Airports Authority of India to shift Bagdogra Airport was reported. I strongly urge the government to desist from taking this step keeping in view both the cultural and economic importance of the airport to the people of the region, any issue can be resolved with State Government through dialogue.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am willing to allow Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy to make his submission, but they will have to go back to their seats. आप अपनी बात तो रखें।

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: All of them will have to go back to their seats.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Shri Jithender Reddy, please go back to your seat and make your point. ...(Interruptions)
Hon. Speaker has made a request to you, so all of you may please go back to your seats. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Venugopal, do you want to say something? What is your issue? You have not given anything in writing!

...(Interruptions)

DR. P. VENUGOPAL : I just want to make my submission on the issue of suspension; it is not a discussion, but only a submission. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is it? You have not given anything in writing. I do not know what your issue is.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL : Madam, we are the third largest Party and I may be allowed to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: What is the issue? Do you want to speak on the issue of fishermen? If that is so, you can.

...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: ऐसा करने तो मुझे फिर से शून्य काल शुरू करना पड़ेगा।

DR. P. VENUGOPAL : Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express our views regarding suspension of Members...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What are you doing? You cannot speak on that. You told me that you would like to speak on the issue of fishermen, is it not? What is it? Which issue do you want to raise?

DR. P. VENUGOPAL : I just want to express our views, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: About what?

DR. P. VENUGOPAL : I am not asking for any discussion. It is regarding suspension of the Members.

HON. SPEAKER: You cannot discuss that issue, I am sorry. That issue cannot be discussed here.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Kindly consider it, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Please give it in writing, if they have agreed.

...(Interruptions)