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Title: Need to return 1,800 acres of land requisitioned for military airport purpose at Nevali in Kalyan-Ambarnath in Maharashtra during the World War II to the respective original landholders.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Speaker, the Government of India rules clearly state that any requisitioned land needs to be returned to original user after the purpose of requisition has been served. However, the land at Nevali located in the Kalyan-Ambarnath belt in my constituency, and just 50 kms. from Mumbai has not been returned to the original owners since the days of the World War II. During the World War II, the then Government had requisitioned this stretch of 1,800 acres of land for a military airport. Reports say that airport was in active use of the then Government during War.

At present, the said land is in the possession of Ministry of Defence, Government of India. According to informed sources, the documents regarding title of the said land are not available either with the Ministry of Defence or State Government authorities in charge of the district and the State. As the land was under requisition, it ought to have been handed over to original owners/landholders after the purpose of requisition was over.

The said land is lying vacant and is located in my constituency. The said land is located at a place surrounding urban area and the original land owners have been suffering for the past 70 years.

My contention and request to the Government of India and Ministry of Defence in particular is that the original land owners should be traced, and their lands be returned to them. The remaining excess land then can be put to essential public use such as logistics park, Government Medical College and Research and Development Park, etc.

I would like to get a clarification on the status of this land from Ministry of Defence, Government of India on the legal ownership of this land, and as to why this requisitioned land was not returned after Independence to the original owners/holders.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri B.B. Patil – not present.