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Title: Regarding expansion and development of Rajahmundry Airport.

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY): Madam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned Rs. 274 crore for acquisition of 857 acres of land for expansion of Rajahmundry Airport to match international standards. The land will be handed over to the Airports Authority of India which will take up the expansion of the airport. The AAI plans to extend the runway to 3,165 metres from the existing 1,749 metres to enable landing of big or Code-D aircraft.

At present, the airport at Rajahmundry handles eight flights daily. The passenger traffic at the airport is about 2,000 per day. Due to non-expansion of airport and non-operational direct flights, either by Air India or any private entity, from Rajahmundry Airport to New Delhi and other metropolitan cities, the people of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh are suffering a lot to travel.

Rajahmundry is a commercial hub. There are lot of industries located at Rajahmundry, including ONGC, GAIL. I would, therefore, request the Union Government and hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju *garu*, to allocate adequate funds for expansion of Rajahmundry Airport and also to issue necessary instructions to Air India to operate direct flights from Rajahmundry to New Delhi and other metropolitan cities.