

Title: Need to clear and allocate adequate funds for upgradation of Umroi Airport in Shillong -laid.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (SHILLONG): Sir, I wish to raise the vital issue of extension and upgradation of Umroi Airport (Shillong) which has been hanging in the air for the last few years. Shillong is the only State Capital in the North-Eastern region which is not yet linked to the domestic air network. Since Meghalaya itself has immense tourism potential, lack of air link has acted as a damper for many tourism promotion projects which are yet to be finalised. Apart from this, Shillong has been the gateway to many other North-Eastern States and houses military and paramilitary establishments. Shillong has also been an academic centre par excellence where students from other North-Eastern States come to pursue their studies.

A survey on the commercial viability of operating a regular air service either connected to Guwahati or Calcutta has already been done and the viability of the operations established with a gestation period of less than a year from the start-up. I urge the Centre to clear the project and make available adequate funds in the coming Budget.