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Title:Need for all-round development of Ladakh Region.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN (LADAKH) As it is known to hon. Members of this House, Ladakh is the most backward region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government is required to strive for and give all the help to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, for the development and progress of the Ladakh region and do away with the backwardness of the region.

I demand a tunnel to be built across the Zozila Hills to provide the area with an all-weather road approach to Ladakh from the Valley, Srinagar. The Ladakhi people, thus, will get over a major problem. Thus, Ladakh will be connected by road with the rest of the country.

Kargil's airport, though completed, has not yet started functioning. It is immediately required to open the airport to passenger flights.

It is very urgently required, especially at the moment, to take up the matter of constant shelling of Kargil district from across the border.

Due to closure of and lack of educational institutions and colleges in Ladakh, students are compelled to go to study outside the region, at Srinagar, Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country. Due to backwardness of the area and to make education affordable to them, it is required to provide them with scholarships and financial help. Therefore, I request that Ladakh region should be exempted from income tax due to its backwardness. The region was exempted from income tax prior to the year before last.