

Seventeenth Loksabha

an>

Title : Regarding expediting construction of Malda Airport

Shri Khagen Murmu (MALDAHHA UTTAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation towards the pressing need of an airport in Malda.

The nearest airports to Malda are Siliguri and Kolkata which are 250 KM. and 350 KM. away respectively. These long distances have hampered economic activities along with loss of thousands of lives during medical emergencies. Since the 18th century, great quality jute, export-grade mangoes, mulberry, and excellent quality silk have been the main sources of revenue for Malda.

The requirement of an Airport would not only facilitate the regional and international trade of these products but also pave the path to realize the “One District One Product” initiative and would create an effective value chain to meet the actual demand for these products. In this regard, I would request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to expedite the construction of Malda Airport which has been under construction since 2017.