

Need for upgradation of safety measures at Mangalore International Airport, Karnataka

CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA (DAKSHINA KANNADA): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of this House, and to the attention of the Civil Aviation Ministry the urgent need for land acquisition for Mangalore Airport. I seek the intervention of the Union Minister. Through his intervention, I would ask him to enable the UDAN Scheme for our cities, which is the embodiment of the idea of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi'.

The Mangalore International Airport, which is operated by a private operator, has sought additional land from the district administration, which has asked the State Government to provide safety area for the runway. The State Government has written to the Airports Authority of India in this respect. The State Government is willing to facilitate the land acquisition process, and I have personally met the Civil Aviation Secretary who had also agreed to this. But, this is where it is stuck now. It was in September this has happened. While all the agencies in-principle, and in their own capacity and spaces, have said that they are willing to make this happen, there has not been any action initiated to facilitate this.

Sir, the bottleneck is that there is no instruction from the Airports Authority of India to the private operator or the State Government. The next course of action has not been communicated to any of the agencies involved. That is the need of the hour. The Central Aviation Ministry needs to intervene and facilitate a dialogue among all the agencies, and at the earliest, make the land acquisition a reality. While on paper there might be a bureaucratic delay for this, but the airport's expansion and safety are seriously hampered because of this.

I would seek the intervention of the Union Civil Aviation Ministry. Thank you, Sir.