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Title: Regarding need to draw a comprehensive plan for the development of Udupi region in Karnataka as an ideal beach resort – Laid.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI) : Udupi in Dakshin Kannada is known for its rich religious and cultural heritage. It is an important pilgrim centre attracting both domestic and international tourists to its many shrines. Udupi boasts of natural beaches at Malpe and Maravanthe on the Arabian sea shores. It has all the infrastructure like Kerala backwaters and beach-heads. It has tremendous scope for developing water sports facilities.

With the commissioning of Konkan rail network, Udupi has been linked will all metros or cities in the country. There is tremendous earning potential, if necessary tourism infrastructure is developed in Udupi District. Malpe and Maravanthe beaches should be developed. Another important factors is the upgrading of Bajpe airport at Mangalore. The Airport Authority of India needs to complete this project for which land acquisition is complete and rehabilitation of displaced persons right on the schedule. Other works are also in progress like arrival/departure lounges, long radar and VOR replacement etc. Upgradation of Bejpe airport will act as a catalyst for further development of tourism potential in the region.

I would therefore urge the Ministry of Tourism to draw a comprehensive plan for the development of Udupi region as an ideal beach resort and pilgrim centre.