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Title: Issue regarding privatization of airports owned by Airports Authority of India.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to protest against the proposal for privatization of airports presently owned by the Airports Authority of India. Earlier the Ministry had proposed that Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Guwahati would be handed over to the private parties for operation, maintenance and management....(*Interruptions*) We have nothing against giving it to the private parties for maintenance but operation of airports should not be handed over to the private parties. Kolkata Airport was modernized at a cost of Rs.2,300 crore and Chennai Airport was modernized at a cost of Rs.2,100 crore, and handing over these assets to private parties would be giving Government money to private parties....(*Interruptions*)

Today, the Minister has said that 20 airports will be privatized. Employees of the Airports Authority are opposing this....(*Interruptions*) They have already taken a decision to go on strike, and 90 per cent of the employees of the Airports Authority have expressed their opposition to the proposed privatization. The Minister has said that 20 airports would be privatized....(*Interruptions*) We totally oppose this and we, from the joint forum of employees, want that this proposal be dropped and no public assets be handed over to the private parties in the civil aviation sector. ...(*Interruptions*)