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Title: Need to clear the proposal for transfer of Cantonment Board land near Ashoka Circle of Belgaum to District Administration/Public Works Department.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (BELGAUM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter of urgent public importance. Belgaum is the fastest developing city in the State of Karnataka and is considered to be the second capital of the State.

The Ministry of Defence has a small plot of land, it's a cantonment area, around 36.54 metres near Circuit House which is blocking the road in Belgaum. We have been requesting the Defence authorities for many years to remove the cantonment from that area. Alternative arrangement has been suggested by the district authorities, but in spite of that the Defence authorities have not done anything in this regard. I would like to request the Ministry of Defence to immediately remove this obstacle which is creating a problem in the area. The Defence authorities have got around 7400 acres of land and the Government of Karnataka illegally has notified this land as a firing range. The compensation to this effect has neither been given by the Government of Karnataka nor by the Central Government. The Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Chief Secretary of Karnataka have already written to the Defence Ministry to pay the compensation and also stop the firings because in the vicinity there are schools and housing colonies in the area.