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Title: Need to speed up the process of modernization of Lohegaon Airport in Pune, Maharashtra.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (PUNE): I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Union Government that recently on 19th April a emergency landing by the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi aircraft plunged the Lohegan Airport, Pune into chaos for four hours. The aircraft was stuck on the airport's sole runway after a technical snag developed in its nose undercarriage. Many domestic flights were cancelled or diverted resulting inconvenience to the passengers.

To match the rising needs of the Pune Airport, the Civil Aviation Ministry alongwith Defence Ministry should accelerate the process for fulfillment of the demands made by the Pune Airport Advisory Committee. It includes provision of cargo infrastructure at the existing airport, construction of hangers, extension of runway for accommodating larger aircraft, possibility of new runways, provision of common passenger coach service by AAI and beautification of approach roads leading to the airport etc.

I request the Civil Aviation Ministry to speed up this process of modernization of this International Airport, which caters to both, Civil and Defence requirements.