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Title: Need to provide air connectivity to western Odisha and also renovate and upgrade Jharsuguda airstrip in the State.

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL (SUNDARGARH): Western part of Odisha is deprived of air connectivity since long. Earlier some chartered flights took the mission to fill the void but withdrew their operation. Connectivity to Rourkela, Jharsuguda and Ranchi would be the most viable one since both Rourkela and Jharsuguda are the industrial hubs of much importance. Ranchi is nearer to Rourkela. Both Union and State's senior officials, Business executives are facing problem to have a direct air-link with the State Capital. The Airstrip at Jharsuguda was constructed in the year 1945 during World War-II and after independence, proper maintenance was not made and it has remained dilapidated since long. However the Governemnt, of late, has taken initiatives to renovate and up-grade Jharsuguda Airship for usage as a commercial one but in order to be taken up on priority and the Hon'ble Minister is requested to intervene in both the matters for speedy action, in public interest.