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Title: Need to accord the international airport status to Biju Pattanaik airport at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): The capital city Bhubaneswar which is also named as temple city has become one of the most favoured tourist destinations of the country over a period of time. The other tourist places of Odisha like Konark, Puri, Bhitarkanika, Chilika, Paradip etc have been attracting number of domestic as well as foreign tourists. Besides, the industries and corporate Houses flourishing in different parts of the State have also made the foreign officials visit the State frequently. Keeping in view development of tourism industry of the state as well as easy accessibility to the city of Bhubaneswar by the foreigners, it is felt necessary to operate international flights to and from Bhubaneswar. In this regard, a proposal by the State Govt, has also been submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The State Government has attempted as per its capability to promulgate standards that will encourage development of adequate services and facilities required by the airport user, encourage development of the airport and its activity therein at par with the international standard. However, requisite initiation by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for expansion of land area in respect of the said airport along with preventive measures to protect the flights from flying birds over the airport region may be taken up immediately.

Keeping all these points in view, I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation to expedite according the International Airport status to Biju Pattanaik Airport at Bhubaneswar as soon as possible.