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Title: Need to secure required clearance for proposed Navi Mumbai Airport in Kopra-Panvel area in Maharashtra and to expedite construction work thereof.

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (THANE): The proposed new airport, in Kopra-Panvel area, is being built through PPP route, with 74 per cent equity by private sector, and 13% each by Airports Authority of India and Government of Maharashtra through City and Industrial Development Corporation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has already given techno-feasibility clearance to the proposed airport. The land required for is about 11.4 Km for the core airport activity and will have two parallel runways each, 3,700 meters long. Construction work is expected to start by December 2012. However, the construction work is likely to be delayed as neither the Central Government has approved its pre-bid documents yet nor has there been any significant progress due to the protest against land acquisition. The Chairman of CIDCO has requested the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the processing work on the proposed airport so that work may be started. The delay in securing clearance by the CIDCO for the proposed airport from the State Forests Department and other technical reasons will further delay the commencement of the construction work.

Since the proposed airport site is a marshland and a hilly terrain, leveling of the land is necessary before the construction begins. Subsequently, CIDCO has come up with plans to do the needful *i.e.* cutting down the hill and filling the marshland. However, CIDCO is yet to initiate these works, as it awaits for clearance from the forest department.

This is an important project and should not be delayed due to one clearance or the other of various departments. I would like to request the minister to kindly intervene in this matter and direct the concerned for speedy start of work of proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport in Kopra-Panvel area.