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Title: Need to make airport at Cooch Behar in West Bengal operational.

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (COOCH BEHAR): I want to bring to the attention of this Government that in my Constituency, Cooch Behar West Bengal, there is a full fledged airport with all infrastructural facilities. Till last so many years, Hon'ble Members of North Bengal have been continuously requesting to start flight operations from Cooch Behar airport but even after spending crores of rupees in the last 3-4 years the Central Government is in no mood to make this airport operational. Here I want to mention that all the districts of North Bengal are economically backward districts and to boost the economy here it is very necessary that the Cooch Behar airport should be made operational at the earliest and also this airport is very important from the point of view of our Defence. Further, I want to mention here that in August - September, 2011, the airport was made operational for 1 to 2 days, but again it was shut down. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to take immediate steps so the airport at Cooch Behar, West Bengal should be made operational within this year.