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Title: Need to develop the Rasgovindpur airstrip in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): There exists an airstrip in Rasgovindpur in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, which was constructed during World War II in the year 1940. The airstrip has since been abandoned.

The Government plans to construct 200 low cost airports to connect tier II and tier III towns in the country. I hereby urge upon the Union Government to develop the Rasgovindpur airstrip as one of the proposed 200 airports.

Not only has this airstrip got 11,000 feet concrete runway as of today, but also this airport will be a gateway to the whole of Northern Odisha connecting Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak and Keonjhar. In addition, this proposed airport will be well connected with adjoining states like West Bengal and Jharkhand.

I further bring it to the notice of the Union Government that Odisha has consistently lagged behind in infrastructure development for the last several decades including setting up of airport.

To elaborate this, Odisha has got just one airport for its 4.19 crore population whereas several major States in our country have got on an average one airport for 70-80 lakh population.

Hence, there exists a serious disparity in terms of air connectivity in Odisha in view of the facts enumerated above. I once again strongly urge the Union Government to accord approval for the operationalization of Rasgovindpur in Amarda Road in North Odisha.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri M. Srinivasa Rao – not present.