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Title: Regarding the decision to privatise Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Jaipur Airports.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I request that I may be permitted to raise a matter of urgent public importance during the "Zero Hour" in the House today. If permitted, I will raise the issue briefly as under:

The Government of India has proposed to privatize four Airports, namely, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Jaipur recently. These Airports employ more than 5000 employees. All these four Airports were modernized recently by spending about Rs.5000 crore from the public exchequer.

Privatisation means handing over assets built at a public cost to private parties. The Airports Authority of India which runs 125 airports at present is fully equipped with all infrastructure at par with international standards. Now, the step of the Government will ultimately cost the air travellers to be taxed heavily. With the best airports privatised, the Airports Authority of India will go into financial bankruptcy. The CAG in its report mentioned that privatisation of Delhi Airport is a big scam. Similar scam is going to happen here. I have already spoken to the Civil Aviation Minister and the Prime Minister against privatisation.

In these circumstances, I appeal to this august House to stop this move of the Government, to save the airports, and ensure the security of services of airports employees. The employees of airport authorities led by the recognised airports authority union had been agitating against privatisation for sometime past. They will be holding a dharna in Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 10th March, 2015 and one-day token strike all over India will be observed on 11th March, 2015. I appeal to all the Members, cutting across political lines, to support this movement against privatisation of the airports.