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Title: Need to review decision to privatise six airports - Laid

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The Central Government has taken a decision to privatize six airports, namely; Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangalore and Lucknow which were being owned and run by the Airports Authority of India. This will mean handing over assets built at the cost of the exchequer to private entities, which would make windfall profits out of these assets. This decision has been opposed by all the unions in the Airports Authority of India including the recognized Airport Authority Employees Union (AAEU). Relay hunger strikes have taken place in airports all over India. The President of the Joint Forum of Employees Unions and Associations of AAI have already written to Prime Minister opposing the decision and asking the government to drop the proposals. Earlier, decision to privatize six airports including Kolkata and Chennai were dropped by the government after West Bengal Chief Minister protested against such a decision.