

Regarding need to develop an international standard airport in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency, Himachal Pradesh-Laid

SUSHRI KANGNA RANAUT (MANDI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for developing and operationalising an international-standard airport in Mandi Constituency of Himachal Pradesh. At present, the State lacks an airport capable of facilitating regular operations of bigger planes. The existing airports available in the State facilitates only narrow-bodied turbofan aircraft, which significantly limits passenger capacity, connectivity, and tourism growth. Himachal Pradesh is globally known for its scenic beauty, religious destinations, adventure tourism, and cultural heritage. Tourism is a major driver of the State's economy and livelihood generation. However, limited air connectivity acts as a serious bottleneck in unlocking its full tourism and investment potential. Many tourists, both domestic and international, face long and difficult road journeys due to the absence of a suitable airport for larger commercial aircraft. Mandi Constituency, owing to its central location within the State, offers strategic geographic suitability for such infrastructure. An international-level airport in this region could serve as a gateway for multiple districts, improving accessibility and regional balance in development.