

But the access from Bangalore City to the new airport is beset with traffic bottlenecks as the stretch of 37 kms. is too much constricted. For this reason, the Bangaloreans are demanding the retention of the old terminal facility, at least, for domestic operations until such time a free and unhindered access to the new airport at Devanahalli is provided.

The Government of Karnataka had offered to develop this stretch on NH-7 as an expressway under private-public partnership made on BOOT basis, seeking grant from the Centre under the Viability Gap Funding Schemes.

I am glad to mention that the Centre has come forward to take over this project, including, acquisition of land, under the National Highway Development Project Scheme and would request the NHAI to launch the project towards early commissioning.

### **Concern Over Price Rise in the Country**

**SHRI SANJAY RAUT (Maharashtra):** I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Agriculture to scarcity of grains, which has caused rise in prices of food articles. It is mainly due to stagnation in production and the country has not produced enough food-grains over the last few years. There is a supply-demand mismatch in food-grains pulses and edible oil, and this is the primary cause for rise in inflation rate. In this context, it is requested that the Government should carefully watch the situation and take monetary measures. But the flip-side of monetary measures is the rise in interest rates for this purpose. The Government will have to do a balancing act. Concerns over stagnating agriculture production are significant because the Agriculture Ministry has been saying that production was "record high" over the last few years. It is, therefore, the need of the hour that the Government may aim to reduce the demand supply mismatch by raising food-grain production by 10 million tonnes under the National Food Security Mission. The Global Investment Funds, growing appetite for agro-commodities, commercial crops and spices produced by India is raising fears of possible food shortages. I would also like to request the Government to pay proper attention to commodity trading activity through various systems. This will also keep the inflationary pressures under control. Thank you.

### **Demand to Decrease the Fees Charged in Pursuing Medical Education**

**SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu):** Sir I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the issue of lack of medical education in the country. Nowadays, students do not aspire for joining medical course because employment and revenue possibilities are very less and the fee structure to complete the course is too high as compared to the courses relating to Information Technology. An IT student gets the opportunity of campus interview conducted by private and multinational companies, who have been selecting the students for employment with huge salary structure at the end of the final year. But medical students do not get such a chance of being called for any interview after several years of completion of course. As a result of this situation, a number of medical seats have remained vacant for the last decade or so and consequently, there is an acute shortage of trained medical personnel in 22,669 Primary Health Centres. According to the recent National Rural Health Mission Report, nearly eight per cent of Public Health Centres do not have doctors. There is a short fall of 2,376 surgeons and nearly 3,910 physicians in Community Health Centres. If this situation continues, the shortfall of doctors and medical personnel not only in rural areas but also in urban areas will increase in the coming years. Therefore, I request the Government to take necessary steps to decrease the fee structure of medical education in Government and private medical colleges, as an incentives to the students in the coming years.