

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1920  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008  
SETTING UP OF NEW AIRPORT AT ANDAL IN WEST BENGAL  
Chakraborty Shri Ajay; Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is a large deposit of coal beneath the proposed site of Andal Airport and its adjoining areas in Burdwan District of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Coal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry is actively considering to shift the proposed airport to an alternate site;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a)&(b): Government of West Bengal has informed that the proposed site will not impact future mining of coal in any significant way. Even if there are coal reserves below the project area, these are at great depths compared to the current underground mines (most of which are less than 300 meters deep) and future mining can always include measures to mitigate problems, if any.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e),(f)&(g): M/s Bengal Aerotropolis Project Limited had sent a proposal for setting up of a domestic greenfield airport at Andal - Faridpur Blocks of Bardhaman District in West Bengal. The proposal was considered in the 4th Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3rd December 2008 and the Committee has accorded its 'In-Principle' approval to the project.