

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3354
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORTS ON COAL MINES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constructed /proposes to construct airports in coal mining belts in various States of the country including West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the likely dangers / risks to the life and property as a result of construction of airports at such sites along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard including the selection of alternative sites?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d) Asansol airport is the only airport belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) which lies in the coal mining belt. This airport was abandoned since 1970 due to coal mining activities underneath the runway.

However, a Greenfield airport at Andal in Burdwan District of West bengal, which is 24 Km. from Asansol, is being constructed by Bengal Aerotropolis Project Limited (BAPL), a private entity. This site is located in Damodar Valley which is known for coal deposit.

The project was accorded in-principle approval on 03.12.2008, subject to Government of West Bengal addressing the concerns of Coal Indian Limited.