

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4378
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
CLEARANCE FOR EXTENSION OF AIRPORT
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is conducting a study to determine the impact of clearance of extension of the Agatti Airport on the turtle colony situated near Kalpathi Island;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay in clearance for the bridge to extend the Agatti Airport;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) The Airport Authority of India initially proposed to construct a flyover connecting Kalpathi Island and extend the runway of Agatti Airport. In view of the likely impact of the project on marine ecology, corals, eco-sensitive nature of the area, natural habitat and fishing activity in and around the Agatti and Kalpathi Islands, it was suggested to examine the possibility of extending the runway only on one side by relocating certain activities or extending the runway on both sides without connecting the two islands.

The Airport Authority of India, therefore, revised the proposal by relocating the terminal building and extending the runway on both sides without connecting the Kalpathi Island. The environmental clearance for the revised project for extension of runway and allied works at Agatti Airport, Lakshdweep was granted on 07.02.2013 after following due procedure under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011.