

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5318
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
CLEARANCE TO RUNWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is undertaking an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study in Agatti and Kalpethi Islands in order to give clearance to the runway extension project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Airports 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 Airports Authority of India, therefore, revised the proposal by relocating the terminal building and extending the runway on both sides without connecting the Kalpathi Island. Based upon the Environment Impact Assessment study carried out for the revised project, the environmental clearance was granted in February, 2013 after following due procedure under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011.