

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:9
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
CLEARANCES TO CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORTS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Ray Shri Saugata

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

- (a) the norms and standards for granting environmental clearance for construction of new airports in the country;
- (b) the details of the new airports for which environmental clearance has been granted by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether a large area of wetland and paddy fields have reportedly been diverted to airport construction at Aranmula in Kerala;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 9 on "Clearances to Construction of Airports" raised by Prof. Saugata Roy and Shri Pralhad Joshi to be answered on 5.08.2013.

(a) Airports are Category 'A' projects under EIA, Notification, 2006 and require prior environmental clearance from the Ministry. The process for grant of environmental clearance to the Airport projects under the EIA Notification, 2006 comprises of four stages viz. (i) Screening, (2) Scoping, (3) Public Consultation and (4) Appraisal by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). Based on the recommendations of EAC, the issue of clearance to the constructions of new airports is considered.

(b) Details of the new airports for which environmental clearance has been granted by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, are placed at Annexure.

(c) to (e) As per the State Government of Kerala, approximately 500 acres of land has been notified as industrial area for development of Airport at Aranmula in Kerala. The proposal for development of Airport at Mallappuzhasserry, Aranmula and Kidangannur villages, Kozhencherry Taluk, Patthanamthitta District, Kerala on a plot area of 500 Acres to cater to airbus A – 300 was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 21st – 23rd September, 2010 and the Committee finalized ToRs including Public Hearing. ToRs for the project were accorded on 13.10.2010. Public Hearing was conducted on 10.05.2011 at Pathanamthitta District Collectorate. The project along with final EIA report and public hearing proceedings was again considered by the EAC in its meeting held on 21st–23rd September, 2011, 15th – 16th December, 2011 and 16th –17th August, 2012. The EAC, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and additional clarifications furnished in response to its observations, recommended the project for grant of Environment Clearance. However clearance to the above Airport was not granted in view of the various representations received against the project alleging inclusion of large extent of wetlands and paddy fields for the project.