

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:476
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
CLEARANCE FOR EXTENSION OF AIRPORT
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for extension of the Agatti Airport situated in Kalpeti Island;
- (b) if so, whether it will affect on turtle colony situated near the Island;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for extension of the said Airport?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Airport Authority of India had initially proposed to extend the Runway of the Agatti Airport by connecting with the Kalpeti island through a flyover. In view of the likely impacts on marine ecology, corals, eco-sensitive nature of the area, natural habitat and fishing activity in and around both the islands viz. Agatti and Kalpeti Islands, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) suggested to the project proponent to examine the possibility of extending the runway only on one side by relocating the existing resort and other activities or extending the runway on both sides without connecting the two islands. Airport Authority of India accordingly revised the proposal by relocating the terminal building and extending the runway on both sides without connecting the other island. The environmental clearance to the revised project was granted on 07.02.2013 after following due procedure under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011.