

to construct approximately 855 feet long RCC bridge on stilts over the lagoon for runway extension and associated safety areas along the runway. AAI is in the process of appointment of Consultant for design and engineering to ascertain cost of the project.

- (c) Yes, Sir. All environmental clearances have been obtained for the project.
- (d) Proposed extension of runway would provide the following benefits:—
 - (i) It will provide air connectivity to Agatti Island, Lakshadweep with the main land facilitating operation of ATR-72/Q-400 aircraft without load penalty
 - (ii) It will meet the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's Requirement for licensed airport.
 - (iii) It will also meet the security requirements.
- (e) No definite time frame for completion of the project has been made at this stake.

Proposal of Civil Aviation Authority

1096. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to replace the present Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with more powerful Civil Aviation Authority (CAA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) to what extent the new CAA will be more autonomous and what will be the composition of its board members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will have adequate financial and administrative flexibility to meet functional requirements for an effective safety oversight capabilities over air transport service operators, air service navigation operators and operators of other civil aviation facilities, development and standardization of civil aircraft and aeronautics, matters relating to financial stress on safety of operations, consumer protection and environment regulation in civil aviation sector and for matters connected therewith and thereto. The proposal to form CAA is in the stage of inter-Ministerial consultations.