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Title: Need to expedite the proposed construction of Airport at Androth Island in Lakshadweep.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government that there is a proposal to construct a Greenfield airport at Androth Island in Lakshadweep which is my constituency.

The foundation for the Greenfield airport construction has been laid about 16 years back, that is, way back in 1996. It has been almost 16 years but the proposal is still pending. This has been discussed and deliberated in the IDA Meeting which was chaired by the hon. Prime Minister. It is understood that the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Civil Aviation have already conducted the site survey. Earlier, in the site survey, they had said that about four lakh square kilometres of land is required. But according to the revised proposal, six lakh square kilometres of land is required. Anyway, the site survey has been conducted but the Environment Impact Assessment is yet to be conducted by the Ministry of Environment.

Therefore, I would urge the Ministry of Civil Aviation and especially the Ministry of Environment to ensure that the Environment Impact Assessment is conducted expeditiously and without any further delay the proposal is cleared so that the green field airport could be constructed.