

Mid-air collision at the border of India and Bangladesh

*104. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two private airlines came too close for comfort before averting a mid-air collision at the border air space of India and Bangladesh recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the collision was averted after the Air Traffic Control in Kolkata instructed one plane to move away from the other aircraft that had come at the same level;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many such incidents had been reported in the past; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) On 31.10.2018, two private airline flights were on a reciprocal track, which could have led to the breach of separation while flying in Bangladesh airspace. However timely corrective action taken by Air Traffic Controller in Kolkata avoided emerging situation.

(c) Till date, 9 such incidents have been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in 2017 and 2018, in this region.

(d) Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) was approached by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for conversion of various bi-directional ATS routes passing through Bangladesh airspace connecting Kolkata, into pairs of uni-directional routes (inbound and outbound). In March, 2018, CAAB accepted to bifurcate Guwahati-Agartala ATS route. Unidirectional route (R472) in that sector has been established and implemented since March, 2018. Similar proposals for conventional and now Performance Based Navigation (PBN) routes between Kolkata and Dhaka with further connectivity to Guwahati have been declined by the CAAB.

AAI holds monthly ROC meetings to ensure situational awareness amongst the aviation stakeholders.

Foreign national in restricted area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*105. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign national had attempted to land in the out of bounds Sentinel Island in the Andamans for the purpose of illegal religious conversion of the native Sentinelese tribe which is an endangered community living in Andaman Island;

(b) if so, what laws had been violated by the person and those that aided and abetted him and what is the status of prosecution of these people; and