GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CIVIL AVIATION LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2576 ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014 MISHAP IN AMRITSAR AIRSPACE Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mid-air collision has been recently averted after a Sukhoi fighter jet of the Indian Air Force turned close to two international flights in the Amritsar airspace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident;

(d) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G. M. Siddeshwara)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. On 22.02.2014, an Indian Air Force aircraft 352 (Sukhoi) carrying out local flying in the Air Force Area within Delhi Area Control (west) Jurisdiction (close to ATS route M890). Initially the IAF aircraft 352 was cleared for FL 210 by Delhi ATC, but it climbed to FL 330 and approached towards ATS route M890. In the first instance, IAF aircraft became potential conflict for overlying Kras Jet flight KAR2586 maintaining FL330 and flying ATS route M890. In the second instance, IAF aircraft 352 again approached towards M890 without maintaining any contact with Delhi Area Control at FL 327 and became potential conflict for overlying Turkish flight THA962 maintaining FL320 and flying ATS route M890. There was no response to several calls given by the radar controller while the Sukhoi was crossing M890.

(c) to (e): The investigation has revealed that the Indian Air Force aircraft was the intruder and created breach of separation, accordingly the matter has been referred to Indian Air Force for appropriate action.