

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2024
(To be answered on the 14th December 2023)**

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

2024. SHRI MANISH TEWARI

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री**

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the recent Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) spotted above Bir Tikendrajit International Airport at Imphal;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Bir Tikendrajit International Airport was closed for nearly three hours and incoming flights diverted after the UFO was observed and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the airport authorities perceived a clear and present danger to aeroplanes from the alleged UFO and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware about recent reports of MH-370 being buzzed by UFO before it disappeared on 8th March 2014 and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has a strategy/policy to protect commercial airliners in event of a UFO sighting and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government has a view on Extra-terrestrial life or living beings in Outer Space and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री**

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) On 19.11.2023, at time 1430 IST, Imphal ATC received a telephonic message from CISF control room that an unidentified flying object was seen near the Imphal airfield just above the ATC Tower overhead. The object appeared to be of White colour and it moved southwards above ATC Tower and remained stationary there for some time. It remained visible till 1605 IST and thereafter disappeared. (Sunset time at Imphal on that day was 1626 IST).

(b) Landing and take offs were suspended at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport for nearly 3 hours. A NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) was issued to this effect. 6E-275 (Kolkata to Imphal) diverted to Guwahati, 6E-5118 (Delhi-Imphal) also diverted to Kolkata. Three departing aircraft 6E-525 (Imphal to Agartala), AI-734 (Imphal to Kolkata), AI-890 (Imphal to Guwahati) were delayed on ground.

(c) to (d) Any unidentified airborne object in the vicinity of airport poses a danger to the operation of aeroplanes because of unpredictable movements of the object. Therefore, the object sighted over Imphal airport posed the same danger to the movement of aeroplanes.

(e) & (f) Airports Authority of India controls and manages the Indian airspace extending beyond the territorial limits of the country, as accepted by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to ensure the safety and efficiency of flights. It is also responsible for Communication, Navigation and Surveillance of Indian airspace.
