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title: Need to introduce direct flight between Delhi and Kumbirgram in Assam and to provide night landing facilities at Kumbirgram Airport.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Kumbirgram Airport is located near silchar, Assam which was built by the British in the year 1944 and is also a civil enclave airport though it is under the control of Indian Air Force. It is the fourth busiest airport of the North Eastern Region. Silchar Airport handles about 2,30,000 passengers yearly. It is well equipped with the instrument landing category on with night landing facility from 2nd September, 2007. A huge amount was spent for this purpose. However, operationalisation of night flights for civil operation cannot be started due to lack of permission from Indian Air Force for the last 8 years though there is a huge demand for night flights. On that ground, direct flight facilities with New Delhi was still not allowed.

About the status of flight traffic from Silchar airport, I wrote a letter to the Minister in the past dated 22nd December, 2014 after which the frequency of the flights was improved and the people of Barak valley were partially well communicated but now it has been brought to my notice that the flight operated by Jet Airways from Guwahati-Silchar and Silchar-Kolkata as well as vice-versa in the afternoon is going to be stopped by the Jet Airways. So, once again, the people of Barak valley will face trouble.

So, Madam, through this august House, I request both the Ministers of Defence and Civil Aviation to restore night landing facility and also a direct flight from Delhi to Kumbirgram and vice-versa.