

**Forcelanding of a Foreign Plane at  
Murud**

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Shri Ranen Sen:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Dhaon:  
Shri B. P. Yadava:  
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:  
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
Shri P. Kunhan:  
Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
Shri Hem Raj:  
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:  
Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
Shri Tridib Kumar  
Chaudhuri:  
Shrimati Renu  
Chakravartty:  
Shri Kolla Venkalah:  
Shri Bagri:  
Shri J. B. S. Bist:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
Shri Swell:  
Shri Baswant:  
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri M. N. Swamy:  
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Bishanchander Seth:  
Shri Vishram Prasad:  
Dr. Saradish Roy:  
Shri Imblichbava:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Kapur Singh:  
Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:  
Shri Bade:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
Shri D. D. Mantri:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri Solanki:  
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:  
Shri Krishnapal Singh:  
Shri Daji:  
Shri A. V. Raghavan:  
Shri P. R. Patel:  
Shri Hukam Chand  
Kachhavaitya:

\*62.

Shri P. K. Deo:  
Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:  
Shri Barua:  
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
Shri K. C. Pant:  
Shri Nambiar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two foreigners made a forced landing in a plane at or near Murud, Maharashtra on the 8th June, 1964, and made good their escape to Pakistan from Bombay leaving behind the plane;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been made into the incident; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathl): (a) to (c). A statement has been laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3024/64].

Dr. Ranen Sen: I did not get the statement.

Shri Nath Pai: Let him read the statement.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I have a full list of the statements distributed, to day but the statement referred to by the Minister is not in the list.

Dr. Ranen Sen: That is the difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: This statement was circulated to all Members earlier.

Dr. Ranen Sen: I must have missed it.

When these things were actually known, may I know what concrete steps were taken to immediately apprehend the culprits in this respect?

Shri Hathl: The culprit had left India, there was no question of apprehending him here.

श्री विद्याम प्रसाद : उन्होंने ने महाराष्ट्र में फोर्ट्स लेडिंग किया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ

कि क्या हमारे हवाई जहाज के विभाग के पास ऐसी कोई मशीन नहीं है जिस से बताया जा सके कि हमारे देश के अन्दर एक विदेशी हवाई जहाज लैंड कर रहा है ?

**Shri Hathi:** Immediately the plane landed, it was known and detected, but before that no information was received.

**Shri Nath Pal:** The statement which the hon. Minister has laid on the Table of the House tactfully avoids identifying Mr. John Philby. May I know whether this John Philby is not the same person as the wanted person Walcott; and (b) the statement talks about action having been taken against one jamedar and one head constable. Is the Government intending to do something more than finding scapegoats. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** He will have enough opportunity.

**Shri Nath Pal:** I will, but it will help me to better prepare.

**Mr. Speaker:** Only one question I will allow.

**Shri Nath Pal:** Part (b) of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** No.

**Shri Nath Pal:** May I know whether, apart from finding scapegoats of such minor officials like jamedars, they are thinking in terms of finding whether there was responsibility at higher levels or not, and whether some accomplices in the higher echelons of police and customs were not in league with this gang of smugglers?

**Shri Hathi:** The first part of the question is that the name of Mr. Walcott is not found in the statement, and the name of only Mr. John Philby is stated. The reason is that the passport mentions the name of John Philby. During the investigation it has been found that there exists a strong suspicion that John Philby may

be Walcott, but the identity has not yet been ascertained.

**Shri Nath Pal:** On a point of order, Sir. I never raise a point of order unless I feel strongly that it is relevant. There is a statement by the Government spokesman earlier that a statement was made by John Philby before the British police, which has been communicated to the police of Maharashtra, saying that Capt. McLister, who piloted the plane, identified John Philby as nobody else but Walcott. May I know whether Government is not in possession of this document where the British police accept the identity? May I also know whether the finger-prints on the plane were not those of Walcott?

**Mr. Speaker:** Not so many questions.

**Shri Hathi:** I have not replied wholly yet to all the parts which the hon. Member had asked in the first question. I had come only to the first part. The second part was. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** He may only answer the second question.

**Shri Hathi:** The other is also important from my point of view. He said only one jamedar is arrested and not others. The other arrest, as we have mentioned in the statement is that of the official of the IAC who is responsible according to us for his escape. If the House can bear with me, I will say within a couple of minutes, explain the whole position so that further questions may not arise, if you permit me.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What is this?

**Mr. Speaker:** There would be a regular debate on that.

**Shri Nath Pal:** What about my question about McLister's statement to the British police about identity—whether he has received a copy of it?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says he has not.

**Shri Hathji:** I have not replied.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has the attention of the hon. Minister been further drawn to the statement made by this Capt. McLister, as reported in the press, to the London police to the effect that Novak, their Bombay contact man, failed to give them the green signal to land at Murud, which was in fact their destination and, if so, does this not imply that this particular spot was selected as the area of operation for these top-level international smugglers, and has there been any investigation to probe into whether there has been collusion or connivance by some local people also to enable them to operate in this manner?

**Shri Hathji:** We have during our investigation found various clues to this incident. Further investigation is necessary in England also and other countries. We have sent an official to that country. Moreover, as I have mentioned in my last paragraph of the statement, the investigation is also being made by the Interpol, that is the international criminal police organisation, and they have advised that there are many other countries also where perhaps these people have operated and at this stage, if we give further clue, perhaps it may damage the investigation. But we have sent an officer; he is investigating and collecting all the clues by which we may be able to prepare a full case.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know how long it will take for the investigation to be completed?

**Shri Hathji:** It all depends, because, as I said, the international criminal police organisation are also investigating into the cases of other countries also; they might take some more time in order to have complete investigation. I cannot say any definite period by which this may be completed.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** I want to know whether the Government have any evidence in their possession to indi-

cate that this visit of Mr. Philby, or whosoever he is, is his first visit to this country, or if he has visited before after the sensational flight from Palam airport sometime ago of an individual called Walcott?

**Shri Hathji:** If it is John Philby, it is perhaps his first visit. But if his identity is definitely located as Mr. Walcott, it will be not his first visit but many visits.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** May be his third visit.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Are the Government aware of the fact that this party of international racketeers have penetrated into India on a smuggling mission before also, and the Maharashtra police has sufficient clue with it that this party has visited India before and that place, Murud, is the centre of operations and they are known to the local people also?

**Shri Hathji:** I do not think that Murud was the centre of operations for all smugglers.

**Mr. Speaker:** This group.

**Shri Hathji:** But some members of the party have been suspected.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know whether this gentleman called McLister who has been interrogated by the London Police—whether our Government have asked for an extradition of this person for further enquiries into this matter in India?

**Shri Hathji:** In fact, as I said, we have deputed a high official to London for this purpose. The question whether he can be extradited or not is being considered.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : जो विदेशी मुरुद में उतरे वं वे अपना वायुयान छोड़ गए हैं। उस वायुयान का सरकार ने क्या किया, और क्या उन के खिलाफ कोई एक्स्ट्रीडीशन प्रोसी-द्विग चल रहा है ?

**श्री हाथी :** वॉल्टर जहाज तो सरकार के कब्जे में हैं और एक्स्ट्राडीशन के बारे में कार्यवाही हो रही है ।

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Has the identity of the owners of the plane been established and if so are those owners being helpful to the authorities in solving the mystery of the fliers?

**Shri Hathi:** That is also under investigation. We have been able to locate the identity of the plane as well as the owners.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether it has also been ascertained by the hon. Minister or by the Special Intelligence Branch that Mr. Walcott is a smuggler and that his smuggling is connected with some big houses in Bombay including some of the sons of ex-Ministers?

**Shri Hathi:** I do not know whether a particular smuggling was done by Mr. Walcott or somebody else but we have made certain investigations in this behalf. I do not know whether it is a big house or a small house but we have been able to locate one or two individuals. It has not yet been ascertained definitely whether it was from this smuggling or from some other smuggling.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या यह सच है कि जो हवाई जहाज इंडिया में हैं उन की मांग जिन लोगों ने की है उन मांग करने वालों के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लिया गया है ?

**श्री हाथी :** किसी ने मांग नहीं की है ।

**श्री सिख नारायण :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह कौन सा भ्रष्टार था जिस के जिम्मे यह जांच करने का काम सौंपा गया था कि वह उस की आइडेंटिटी का पता लगाये कि वह फौरन दरअसल कौन है, वाल्टर स्कॉट है या जो दूसरा नाम बतलाया गया है वह व्यक्ति है? एक ही आदमी को इस तरह से उस भ्रष्टार द्वारा दो आइडेंटिटी काँट

जारी करना कहां तक उचित था ? किस के जिम्मे आप ने यह काम किया था ?

**श्री हाथी :** मैं समझा नहीं ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** नहीं समझे तो बाद में सही ।

**Shri P. R. Chakaraverti:** In the light of the unhappy experience of these adventurous flights what steps have the Government taken to discourage the smugglers taking flights at their own whim?

**Shri Hathi:** The steps to check smuggling are being taken. But in this case, it was a peculiar circumstance in which he came.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Has this incident revealed a vacuum in our coastal security arrangements? Have we tightened it all along our coast after this incident or did we keep quiet even after Walcott came and dumped his arms in the Asoka Hotel?

**Shri Hathi:** There is no question of a vacuum in the security. We have a very long coastline and it is not possible to keep at every mile a security post.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I submit, Sir, that Mr. Sheo Narain instead of using the name Walcott used the name Walter Scott. We do not want the memory of such a distinguished novelist to be tarnished like this. Therefore, would you direct that it be expunged from the transcript?

**Mr. Speaker:** It need not be expunged. No answer had been given I have said so.

**Shri Krishnapal Singh:** As a rule photographs and descriptions of all the notorious criminals are circulated and displayed at police stations, railway stations and other public places. I want to know whether Mr. Walcott's photographs and descriptions were

supplied to this particular police station at Murud where he reported.

**Shri Hathi:** The photographs of such wanted persons are being supplied at the airports. The list covers about 600 persons who are wanted from different countries.

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** May I know that when information was communicated to the air control in the morning at 7.35 A.M. and the plane took off from Santa Cruz airport at 11.35 A.M.? What steps did the air control take to locate or apprehend these two intruders either at Santa Cruz or at Karachi with which they got ample time to communicate?

**Shri Hathi:** If the hon. Member goes through the statement he will find that at first instance the report was that a plane which was damaged had to forceland. The occupants of the plane had British passports and they were not people coming from the enemy countries. When they left India, they had their passports also. The names were not transmitted at that time.

**श्री काशीराम गुप्त :** क्या यह जानकारी प्राप्त हो चुकी है कि जिन दो आदमियों के नाम उस भ्रफसर ने लिखे वह लापरवाही के कारण से लिखे गये या वह जानबूझ कर उन से मिल कर भ्रष्टाचार के कारण से उस ने ऐसा किया ?

**श्री हाथी :** जरा फिर से सवाल कर दीजिये मैं समझा नहीं ।

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know whether it was only negligence or some corruption is also involved.

**Shri Hathi:** That is an important question; that is the whole crux of this case. When the immigration officers found that there were two more passengers than what was mentioned

in the manifest or passengers' list, they consulted the officer of the airlines. He, after some consultation, added the names of these two gentlemen and said that they were *bona fide* passengers. It is therefore that this officer has been arrested. Whether it was *bona fide* or whether any bribe or corruption is involved is a matter for investigation. But that officer has been arrested.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether the whereabouts of Jhon Philby and Walcott had been made known to the Indian Government and if so whether any international gang is also going to be unearthed?

**Shri Hathi:** The hon. Member has not understood my previous replies:

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps she arrived later.

**Dr. Swell:** It has been reported that following the forcelanding at Murud, a fisherman was arrested with two bars of gold. May I know if the Government have interrogated the fisherman and through him whether they have been able to establish that these two persons were connected with influential parties in the smuggling racket?

**Shri Hathi:** When the village head man saw the plane landing, he went there with some villagers. He saw two foreigners and he directed them to the police station. The police officer examined their two passports and they were found to be British passports. So, he played a good part in that. The question whether he was a party is under investigation.

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** The recess is too long and the session too short. There is so much of pressure on every question with 60 or 45 names. That is why I have to disappoint many Members. I am very sorry. Next question.