

items to be recommended by a Committee reconstituted for completing assessment work in respect of the period from the 1st January, 1958 to the 17th February, 1959.

Oil India (Private) Limited which was incorporated on 18th February, 1959 has since paid Rs. 1033.85 lakhs to Assam Oil Company from out of the proceeds of the initial share capital of Rs. 12 crores.

The Committee has also been reconstituted with effect from the 23rd March, 1959 to determine the further assets transferable by Assam Oil Company in respect of the period from 1st January, 1958 to the date of incorporation of the Company and the Committee is required to complete its assessment within four months from the date of its appointment.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** An agreement was concluded between the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company. May I know the main terms of that agreement?

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** Agreement was concluded between the Government of India and the Assam Oil Company and a company called Oil India (P) Limited, was incorporated.

**Shri Hem Barua:** It is said that the Assam Oil Company has accepted the assessment of the Assessment Committee, subject to certain adjustments, and these adjustments are to be made by the subsequent Assessment Committee to be appointed. What are these 'certain' adjustments to be made and why is it that these adjustments are left to the subsequent Committee and not made by the original Committee?

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** There was complete agreement as far as major articles were concerned, except some which were left over. The assessment was till 31st December, 1957.

**Shri Tangamani:** Already Rs. 1033.85 lakhs have been paid to the Assam Oil Company. Have Government an estimate of how much more has to be

paid to the Assam Oil Company for the period till our company was incorporated?

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** I want notice. It is too early to say what amount will be paid for the articles in respect of which there has been no complete, unanimous agreement.

#### Missing Aircraft

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\*1637. { **Shri Bameshwar Tamta:**  
**Shri Madhusudan Rao:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Nardeo Snatak:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Vampire jet aircraft which took off from Palam Airport on the 26th August, 1958 is still missing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this plane was reported to have crossed the Tibetan border;

(c) what steps have been taken to locate this plane;

(d) whether any enquiry has been made from the Chinese Government in the matter;

(e) if so, the results thereof; and

(f) whether any Court of Enquiry has been instituted to enquire into the matter, and if so, what are their findings?

श्री नरदो सर्नाक इस प्रश्न के बारे में मैं एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न, प्लाइट थाफ धार्डर, उठाना चाहता हूँ। वह यह है कि इसी प्रश्न के बारे में मैंने ५ दिसम्बर सन् १९५८ को एक नोटिस दिया था, लेकिन ११ दिसम्बर को मुझे यह जवाब मिला कि It relates to a minor accident उस के बाद राज्य सभा में इसे स्वीकार किया गया और इस का जवाब दिया गया और उसे धाज यहाँ पर स्वीकार कर लिया गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सभा और लोक-सभा में क्या प्रत्यक्ष प्रत्यक्ष नियम हैं, और

का हवक हवकने के बाब बिबरन भी बंदक  
दिये जाते हैं ।

**Mr. Speaker:** Let the question be answered. I do not want that every small incident involving an aircraft should be the subject of a question on the floor of the House, because it was brought to my notice that even such aircrafts which are intended for training purposes etc., may be missing and then others who are asked to fly may not fly. So it seems to have a bad effect on those people who have to go for training—that it is full of risk. I have, therefore, issued instructions to all hon. Ministers to report immediately without waiting for any question to be asked on the floor of the House all serious accidents regarding Railways, aircraft etc. I am deciding on each issue whether it is a minor accident or a major accident. This has been allowed because this has not been traced even after such a long time. I am not responsible for admission of a question in the other House. I decide upon what I consider is proper. In all important cases, if the accidents are serious and hon. Members feel that questions must be answered on the floor of the House, even though I may reject them, they may write to me or tell me. I will look into the matter and if I feel that they must be put into a special category, I will do so. Here and there there may be some difference of opinion regarding an accident as to whether it is a minor one or a major one.

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon):** Subject to your ruling, we are anxious to give all the information we have in this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is always willing to give all information, subject to my distinguishing between one from the other.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** The answer to the question is

“(a) Yes, Sir

(b) There were no credible reports. The father of the officer conveyed a story to this effect which he alleged had reached him.

(c) Considerable and prolonged searches have been made by the Indian Air Force.

(d) & (e) Inquiries from our representatives in China did not confirm the report which was brought by the father of the officer.

(f) Yes, Sir. The Court of Enquiry has presumed that the plane crashed with fatal results in some inaccessible and yet unidentified area.”

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The hon. Minister has said that an inquiry was made. In which month was it made?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** This plane crashed sometime in August last year, and nearly 50 hours of investigation flight has been made to locate this area within a radius which is considerably larger than usual, about 200 miles from Palam. There were several rumours which, on the face of them, sounded extremely incredible. But in view of the father's feelings and about it and the fact of two Air Force officers being killed, we did not take a very strict view about it.

12 hrs.

The Court of Inquiry reported round-about December, in the usual time that is taken after the investigations and all the material is available. But I would like to say that still it is not over because they have asked the UP Police now to chase some other rumour that has reached them about the remains of an aircraft in some part of that State.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The accident took place in August as has been stated by the Minister. And the hon. Minister says that the investigation was made in December. May I know

whether it is possible in that snow-bound area to find any trace of the aircraft in December?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** If you will recall, Sir, I did not say that investigations took place in December. I believe I said it was completed in December. It takes time because there is no use winding up the investigation until all the material can be traced.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** I wanted to know when that investigation was made—aerial survey—and when the Government of China was approached to search about this missing plane.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** I answered that question before. There was no possibility, from an aviation point of view, of the plane having gone over the Himalayas. The only reason was that some Swamiji reported something to the father of the person who complained to the Prime Minister. Purely from the compassionate point of view our External Affairs Ministry enquired of our representative in China. But, I do not want to leave the position unexplained. The Swamiji's report was that he had seen a plane over the Himalayas. Therefore we said that if somebody can see the plane from the ground, in the sky a plane can see the mountain from the plane, and he would not have crashed. And what is more, when we wrote to the Swamiji, the Swamiji said that it was raining heavily. If it was raining he could not have seen it.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that Dr. Ram Subhag Singh wants to know is, when was the investigation started.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** The investigation is usually started within about 48 hours after the accident. But how long it takes depends upon the circumstances.

**Shri Raghunath Stagh:** May I know whether it is a case of accident or sabotage?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** There is no sabotage, so far as we know. The Court of Inquiry has not revealed anything like that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** I would like to put a question, Sir. I was one of those who put the question. I was not allowed to put supplementaries.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow him to put supplementaries.

**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** In this question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** The missing aircraft? The Question Hour is over.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

##### International Commission in Laos

17. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Co-chairman of the Geneva Conference on Indo-China or any one of them have asked the International Commission stationed there to resume its work in Laos again;

(b) if so, the circumstances which have led them to do so;

(c) the attitude taken up by Government of India in this regard;

(d) whether the Commission has received the request and considered it; and

(e) the nature of decision taken by it?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) No directive has been received by the Chairman of the Laos Commission from the Co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference to resume its work in Laos.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far as the Government of India are concerned, they are endeavouring to get the International Commission for Supervision & Control in Laos to deal with the problems connected with the Geneva Agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Laos in accordance with the views expressed by the Co-Chairmen in their Notes