

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 1st May, 1953.

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AIR ACCIDENT NEAR LUCKNOW

*1759. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry was instituted into the AVRO Anson crash that occurred on the 20th February, 1950 near Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the report of the enquiry has been received;

(c) whether Government propose to place a copy of the Report on the Table of the House; and

(d) whether all precautions had been taken before giving the pilot the necessary clearance form?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. I lay on the Table of the House a copy of the accident report. [Placed in Library. See No. S-48/53.]

(d) Yes, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the number of Anson planes that were purchased by Government for use in India?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is difficult for me to quote from memory, but a number of them were purchased.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that some Rs. 60 lakhs were spent on these Anson planes and it was at once reported that they were useless,

and as a matter of fact, they are not working now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question relates to a particular accident. If the entire purchase deal of the Anson planes is to be discussed, I would require specific notice for giving figures about that.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the result of the enquiry? Was the accident due to some defect in the machine or some deficiency in the air traffic control?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would refer the hon. Member to the report, particularly the concluding portion, where it says that the accident is attributable to lack of experience in flying in bad weather conditions and manoeuvring too close to the ground in insufficient visibility.

Shri Joachim Alva: Did the aircraft take off in the morning or in the night when there was full visibility in moonlight?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It took off at about 7-15 in the morning.

Shri Joachim Alva: Were the crew properly licensed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There was only one trainee, Mr. Bhatnagar, who held a licence.

Shri Joachim Alva: Was the aircraft correctly loaded?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, it was. It was a sort of test flight or practice flight. The trainee had been licensed.

Shri Sarmah: When the Air Corporations are about to come into existence, why is the Ministry contemplating to give away some large number of Curtis Commandos for a song?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this.