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Title: Regarding reported delay in landing of a private aircraft carrying Chief Minister of West Bengal and other passengers due to air traffic at Kolkata airport.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, I want to raise one important issue. â€¦ (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute.

â€¦ (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sudipji, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, yesterday Mamata Banerjee, our Chief Minister, was coming back from Patna to Kolkata. It was 7.30 p.m. The aircraft was scheduled to halt in the city of Kolkata, but due to traffic, the aircraft was hovering in the sky for a long time of 30 minutes. Then, the pilot sent a signal to the ATC that there was only seven-minute flying fuel reserve and that immediate landing was very important at that juncture, but the ATC gave permission for landing to another aircraft which was coming from Agartala and it was the second one.

While landing, it was found that all emergency landing positions were ready over there – ambulance, fire brigade - as if it was about to crash. The Airports Authority of India has admitted the truth that the fuel left was for seven-minute flying only. After investigation, it can be found out. What we are asking for is whether there is any motive behind it. It was not an Air India flight. It was an Indigo flight. Ms. Mamata Banerjee normally travels in Indigo flight and ATC is controlled by the Central Government. The concerned hon. Minister is here. Hon. Ananth Kumar ji telephoned me today morning to discuss about today's functioning. I told him about this incident also. He said : " Sudip Da, communicate to Chief Minister that I express my anxieties for this incident." So, I want that the Government should rise to the occasion with all out priority and we want to see that the security of Ms. Mamata Banerjee and life of Ms. Mamata Banerjee is facing some challenges, which the Government of India should take care with all priority.

HON. SPEAKER: Sure.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, we pray for the well-being of Ms. Mamata Banerjee and all the air passengers. As the Government of India, it is our responsibility about everybody's life and security and the State Governments also and through Ministry of Civil Aviation all the passengers also. At the same time, our hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is here. Through you, I request him, Madam, to give the factual report and assuage the feelings of the hon. Member Shri Bandyopadhyay and all his friends. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU): Madam, with your kind permission, ...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : नहीं, इस पर नहीं बोलना है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : यह कोई सब के चर्चा का विषय नहीं है। आप लोग बैठिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU : Madam, with your kind permission, I would like to bring the facts to the notice of this august House. ...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : हाँ, हाँ सबकी सहानुभूति है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : हर बात पर ऐसे मत करो, उन्होंने अपनी बात कही है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्लीज़ सुनिए तो सही कि मंत्री जी क्या कह रहे हैं।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU : Indigo flight 6E-342 departed from Patna at 7.36 pm and its expected time of landing was 8.27 pm at Kolkata. ...(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि इसमें सभी पक्ष, खड़े जी से ले कर सभी की सहानुभूति है।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU : There is some traffic congestion at Kolkata because of repairs in the main runway and use of the secondary runway for arrivals and departures. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please repeat as I could not hear you.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप भी वही कहना चाहेंगे?

â€¦(*व्यथान*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, this is not good. ...(*Interruptions*) We want to associate with the issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : नहीं ऐसा नहीं होता है।

â€¦(*व्यथान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : जय प्रकाश जी, आप भी इसमें सहमत हैं।

â€¦(*व्यथान*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is not good. ...(*Interruptions*) You allow me to express it. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Bandyopadhyay, this is not good. ...(*Interruptions*) We should all speak and then he should reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is it?

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : यह सब क्या है?

(*व्यथान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : यह विषय कोई बहुत बड़ी चर्चा का नहीं है।

...(*व्यथान*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): We are the largest Party. ...(*Interruptions*) We have got a say. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you have any doubts, then you can ask after he concludes, but not like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, you allow him for one minute. ...(*Interruptions*) The largest Party should be given half-a-minute to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU : I am just trying to bring the facts to the hon. House. ...(*Interruptions*) The pilot of Indigo flight, when it entered Kolkata airspace, was eighth in the landing sequence. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, what is this? ...(*Interruptions*) This is unfair. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU : It reported low fuel and at that time it was third in the landing sequence. ...(*Interruptions*) However, it did not ask for priority landing even though he was asked specifically about it by the Air Traffic Control (ATC). Whenever there is any communication between the ATC Tower and the pilot of a particular flight, the communication can be heard by other pilots also of other flights, which are in the landing sequence. The Air India flight was ahead of Indigo flight in the landing sequence. When the ATC informed Air India pilot about the Indigo flight being low on fuel, Air India pilot also said that he was also low on fuel. Another flight of Spice Jet, which was behind the Indigo in the landing sequence, also reported low on fuel. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): It is very serious. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: However, as per the information available, none of the pilots of the three flights asked for priority landing. ...(*Interruptions*) All the three flights were allowed to land in the normal landing sequence. The Indigo flight had to hover for 13 minutes only and landed at 8.40 pm. It is incorrect to say that the flight was made to hover for 30-40 minutes.

As per the standard flight safety procedure prescribed by the DGCA, any aircraft which takes off from one airport for a second airport, it must carry sufficient fuel which should enable it to reach its destination, to hover for 30 minutes, as well as to reach the notified alternate airport, which is used for such diversion of flight, if required. ...(*Interruptions*)

For Kolkata Airport, the notified alternate airport is Bhubaneswar Airport. Therefore, Indigo flight should have carried sufficient fuel for going to Kolkata, hover for 30 minutes and then for going to Bhubaneswar airport, if the circumstances so required...(*Interruptions*) Under the circumstances, the DGCA has ordered an inquiry to ascertain as to how these three flights have reported low fuel and whether they have carried sufficient fuel as per the regulatory requirements prescribed by DGCA.

These are the facts of the case, Madam. I thank you for allowing me to bring these facts, through you, to the notice of the august House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): But then the life of the Chief Minister and other passengers was at risk. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : हर कोई इस बात पर नहीं बोलेगा।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : अभी इंचायरी के बारे में भी उन्होंने कहा है। He has said that the DGCA has ordered an inquiry.

खड़गे जी, आप कौन से इश्यू पर बोलना चाहते हैं?

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे: महोदया, मैं इसी इश्यू पर बताना चाहता हूँ। यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, क्योंकि आज के सर्कमस्टेंसिज में जो डीमोनेटाइजेशन के बारे में ऐजिटेशन चल रहा है,

HON. SPEAKER: Do not make allegations, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे: आप हमारी बात सुनिए। â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप भी संभलकर बोलिए।

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Kumari Mamata Banerjee was moving from Kolkata to Patna, Patna to Lucknow, and she was going to so many other places. So, her life is in danger. ...(*Interruptions*) When the ATC was told that he was hovering for 30 minutes and the remaining fuel would last only for seven minutes, it is the duty of the ATC to allow the flight in which Kumari Mamata Banerjee was there to land first. ...(*Interruptions*) Always, VVIPs' flight is allowed to land first, when the flight does not have enough fuel. When there is no fuel, it is the duty of the ATC to do that. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : इसे हंगामा करने का इश्यू मत बनाइये।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Hon. Speaker, the life and safety of Kumari Mamata Banerjee and all the air passengers is a matter of concern. We are very serious about it; we are responsible about it. At the same time, the hon. Civil Aviation Minister, my dear colleague, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju has mentioned what the safety requirements are, which were laid by the Director General of Civil Aviation. The pilots of all the three flights did not ask for priority landing. Though they said that they were low on fuel, when asked by the ATC, they did not ask for priority landing. However, an investigation has been ordered and the report will come before the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Investigation is taking place. Let the investigation be done. They have already ordered the investigation.

...(*Interruptions*)