

**Title:** Made a statement regarding the accident of Indian Airlines Dornier Aircraft at Cochin.

16.08 hrs

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): With a deep sense of shock and anguish, I have to inform this august House that an Indian Airlines Dornier DO-228 aircraft VT-EJW crashed at Cochin soon after take off at 1104 hours today while operating flight IC-503 from Cochin to Thiruvanthapuram. It has been reported that soon after take off the aircraft nose dived and hit a building near the Naval hangar and caught fire. The aircraft was under the command of Capt. Shiv Raj Singh and Capt. Manish Sharma as Co-Pilot and Shri Sajid, Flight Purser. In addition, the following three passengers were on board:

1. Shrimati Vijay Kalyani Kanaujia

2. Shri Samala Raju

3. Shri Sasikanth Ramani

The crash-fire tenders extinguished the fire and the occupants were evacuated and taken to hospital in a critical condition. I am sorry to inform the House that all the six persons have lost their lives. It has further been reported that in addition to the above six persons another three persons were killed on the ground. Cochin is a Naval airport where the Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave.

The DGCA has appointed Director (Air Safety), Mumbai, as Inspector of Accidents under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to investigate the accident.

In view of the seriousness of the occurrence, I propose to appoint a Committee of Inquiry under Rule 74 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to hold an inquiry into this unfortunate accident. I am sure that this august House will join me in conveying our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

The DG and I are proceeding to Cochin for an on the spot inspection.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on July 31, 1998.

16.09 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 31, 1998/Shravana 9, 1920 (Saka) \_\_\_\_\_