

MR. CHAIRMAN: My statement, Shri Chatterjee, was that it has been the convention that if the Minister likes to make an intervention with the permission of the Chair, he can be allowed to do so with the permission of the Chair. Why it is only the Minister? I think that even if any other Member wants to speak something with the permission of the Chair, he can always say something.

(Interruptions).

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir with your permission, I am making a statement.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivendrum): The Private Members' Business was to have started at 3.30 P.M. But, Shri Jaswant Singh has already taken five more minutes. In that case, why can not the hon. Minister make a statement for two minutes with the permission of the Chair. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly allow the Minister to make a statement.

15.30 1/2 hrs.

493 Defence

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accidental Death of Major General A.M. Malik, Add. Director General Military Training, Army Headquarters on 4th September 1991 (SH)

[Translation]

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): Sir,

Maj. Gen. A. M. Malik, who was serving as Addl. Director General in the Directorate General of Military Training, army HQrs., reportedly fell down from the staircase of 'A' Wing, Sena Bhavan, to the ground floor courtyard of the building and died instantly at about 1050 hours on 4th September, 1991.

The Office of the Major General was located on the 7th floor of the 'A' Wing, Sena Bhavan. From the first reports available, it is not known from which floor he fell.

The incident was first reported by the Security staff posted in the 'A' Wing of Sena Bhavan. Immediately thereafter a number of senior officers of the Defence Hqrs including the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and the Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence, rushed to the site. The Delhi Police, who were immediately informed of the incident, arrived on the spot and are reported to have commenced their investigations. The post-mortem of the dead body, which has since been got done by the Police, indicates that the death of the General Officer was due to the fall from a high level.

Besides the investigations by the local Police authorities, as per Army Regulations, a Court of Inquiry headed by a Major General with two Brigadiers as Members has been ordered to investigate into the circumstances leading to the death of Major General Malik.

15.40 hrs.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Eduardo Faleiro may now make a statement.

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Sir, Shri George Fernandes, Member of Parliament, has made certain allegations against me today in the Lok Sabha regarding a Press Conference regarding the Konkan Railway Project, which I held in Goa recently and I wish to clarify the matter as follows:

The Konkan Railway Project passes through the States of Maharashtra, Karna-