

A number of Members had sent suggestions to the Rules Committee that in view of the difficulties experienced by them in repeating the Calling Attention notices on the same subject from day to day, when a Calling Attention on a subject was selected, notices on the same subject received earlier might also be taken into account for the purpose of balloting names of Members for inclusion in the List of Business. The Rules Committee considered the matter at its sitting held on the 28th October, 1978. It was decided that Calling Attention notices might be kept alive till the end of the week.

In view of this decision of the Rules Committee, I propose to follow the following procedure:

(i) All Calling Attention notices received in a week will be kept alive and placed before me from day to day along with notices received upto 1000 hours on the day on which the notices are put up to me.

(ii) On the last day of the week on which the House sits, the notices received upto 1000 hours on that day will be considered by me and all the notices which are not selected shall be deemed to have lapsed and no intimation about this will be given to the Members.

(iii) Notices received after 1000 hours on the last day of the week on which the House sits will be deemed to have been received for the day on which the next sitting of the House is to be held and these will be valid for the following week.

In other respects the procedure announced by me on the 6th December, 1977 would continue to be followed.

12.54 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. IAF PLANE
CRASH AT LEH ON 19-11-1978

MR. SPEAKER: The Defence Minister to make a statement regarding IAF

Plane Aircrash on 19th November, 1978 in which a large number of lives were lost.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with sincere grief and the deepest of regret, I have to communicate to the House the very sad news that an Air accident occurred at Leh yesterday morning in which 78 valuable lives were lost.

A transport aircraft of the IAF was engaged in an Air Maintenance Mission to Leh from Chandigarh on an airlift operation of the kind which is routine between Chandigarh and Leh, specially during winter months. The aircraft had Flt. Lt. A. M. S. Tanwar as Captain, and six other members of the Air Force crew, and 70 Jawans of the Army as passengers.

When the aircraft was approximately about two kilometres short of the touch down point at Leh airport, it reportedly spiralled down sharply to the right and struck the ground short of the runway. As a result of the accident, the plane caught fire and suffered total damage, but what is more grievous, all the 77 persons on board lost their lives on the spot.

In addition, one civilian lady was hit by the crashing aircraft on the ground. She suffered serious injuries to which she succumbed sometime later.

The weather *en route* and in Leh was satisfactory. The flight appears to have been uneventful until just before landing. The crew of the aircraft were fully qualified and competent to fly the mission; in fact, all of them had carried out similar missions a number of times before.

The exact cause of the accident is not known on account of the seriousness of the accident and the large

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

number of valuable lives lost, a high level Court of Inquiry has been ordered under the leadership of an Air Vice Marshal. The Court of Inquiry will comprise flying and technical members with considerable experience in operation and maintenance of this type of aircraft, a representative of the Directorate of Aeronautics belonging to the Defence Research and Development organisations; and the Director of Air Safety in the organisation of the Director General of Civil Aviation. The Court has already been put together and is being flown out to Leh today. It will go into the case or causes of the accident.

Soon after receipt of the report of the accident, the Air Officer Commanding, Chandigarh visited Leh. The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh, Western Air Command, has also left for Leh.

Under the recently revised arrangements, every member of the Air Force crew, as also all the Army Jawans who have lost their lives in this unfortunate air accident, will receive ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 1 lakh per family. Arrangements are being made to disburse this assistance as speedily as possible.

It is my painful duty on behalf of the Government to express sincere sympathy for the bereaved families, to whom our hearts go out in sympathy. May I also take this opportunity to express Government's deep appreciation of the dedication and commendable sense of duty with which the Army and Air Force personnel concerned have laid down their lives in the cause of the Nation.

May I request the House to express their homage to the departed Jawans in this regard?

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

12.59 hrs.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

SHRI NARENDRA P. NATHWANI (Junagarh): I beg to move:

"That this House do extend up to the last day of the first week of the next Session the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend up to the last day of the first week of the next Session the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956".

The motion was adopted.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **REPORTED GRANT OF PAPER CONVERSION LICENCE TO SEHGAL PAPERS LTD.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dhirendranath Basu.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU (Katwa): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Industry that the paper conversion licence granted to a giant unit like Sehgal Papers Ltd. has threatened to