

14.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. MISSING AIRCRAFT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : Sir, it is with deep sorrow that I have to inform the House that a Jamair Dakota, VT-ATT on a flight from Gauhati to Calcutta on 26 March 1971, has been missing since about 8 P.M. last evening. The aircraft left Gauhati for Calcutta at 7.52 P. M. and was in contact with the ground till 8 P. M. The aircraft was carrying 11 passengers and 4 crew members. It had sufficient fuel for five hours. The flight time from Gauhati to Calcutta for this aircraft would be approximately three hours.

An IAF aircraft and helicopter took off at 7 O'clock this morning to search for the missing plane. The aircraft returned after 1½ hours due to bad weather and the helicopter after ten minutes. The missing aircraft has not yet been located. Efforts to locate the missing plane are being continued.

I shall inform the House when further information is available.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara) : I would like to know how this private airlines plane was carrying passengers.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The issue of the strike in the I A has become more and more important after such accidents. I pray to God that the passengers and crew will survive. But it is generally presumed that the missing plane has wrecked somewhere. It becomes all the more essential now to settle the Indian Airlines strike. How long are we to depend on Jamair to carry our passengers? It is for the Minister to see that the strike is settled expeditiously.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I want to say a few words. we cannot be shut out. The entire air transport in the country has come to a stop due to the wrong policy adopted by the I A management and Government. The whole country has the facilities of air travel shut

out to it. Now they have allowed some private companies to use substandard planes to carry passengers resulting in death of people. How is it we are expected to keep quiet over this issue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not keeping quiet. There was a discussion about it in the House.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : No. We had tabled a call attention motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not link the two. She has only given information in regard to a missing plane.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : We resent these happenings. They are the outcome of the wrong policy of Government who are taking the whole country to a crash. What is happening? We had given notice of a call attention on the I A lockout. Yesterday the Minister made a statement about the loss of two precious lives due to the bursting of a tyre of a Boeing. These people had been working round the clock. They were suffering from exhaustion and could not read the meter, with the result that the tyre was overinflated and it burst, killing these two precious lives. Today she comes forward on behalf of Government to tell us that 11 passengers and 4 crew are in a missing plane. It is a shameful thing. The entire responsibility has to be owned by Government which is at the root of all these troubles in this country.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : I would like to clarify that this accident and the I A lockout are unconnected with each other.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Of course, they are.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : The Jamair company has been flying planes on behalf of I A since 1966.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Why do you allow a private airline to fly substandard planes?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is a wrong statement the Minister has made. There is no regular flight from Gauhati.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There could be other occasions when these matters can be raised.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : They have neglected Assam.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhanpur) : This is third accident during the last one year. What is the Government doing about this ?

14.09 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1971-72—GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) 1971-72—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Further discussion of the Budget (General) and further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of the Budget (General) for 1971-72, along with the cut motions thereon.

I would remind the House that the hon. Speaker had announced that we have to conclude this discussion and all other business relating to the Budget by 5 P. M. I am calling the Finance Minister at about 4. 30 P. M. or earlier. So I would request members to be brief and to the point.

Shri Stephen may continue his Speech.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I want to speak.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha) : Yesterday I was about to proceed to offer my comments on the provisions of the Budget, about what appeared to me to be suggestion for wage freeze. I am not very clear whether the proposal is for a wage freeze in the technical sense of term. If there is such a proposal, I would like to know whether the contemplation of the Government is that the wage freeze would be accepted by legislative measures.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHVANTRAO CHAVAN) : It is not a wage freeze.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : Then, I leave it to you. But I want to mention that it is

absolutely necessary that the wage level also has to be held to a certain extent, and unless that is done, this huge process cannot be successfully proceeded with. I am sure the Indian worker is patriotic and realistic enough to realise the necessity for this, but this has got to be undertaken by him as a matter of self-sacrifice and self-restraint. This self-restraint he will be prepared for only if the sacrifice is shared all round by every body. When the wages of the higher people are far higher and the Manager of the staff and the Chief Executives are getting runaway wages and salaries, when there is no restraint upon that, when the difference between the wage-earner and the highly placed people is too high, there will not be the psychological setting available whereunder they will feel induced to agree to that. My point is only this. Our approach to the whole question has to be political. It has not to be merely financial.

We are now, if I may say so, at the take off stage, taking off to a socialist transformation. For that the stage has got to be set, and the stage has got to be set with a full surcharge of psychological implications. The common Indian today is aware of his rights. He is no more in a mood of a supplicant asking for accommodation. He is in the mood of a person who is conscious of his rights, demanding his rights, not to be accommodated but to be provided his complete rights. He will not be tolerant to a situation in which persons who are not working, who do not deserve, are treated as a privileged people and are enjoying rights and privileges and conditions of living which are far above his reach. Therefore, Government has to address itself to this question also. Ostentatious spending has got to be curbed. Everybody must have the right to possess and enjoy what is absolutely necessary for normal living and, if I may say so, even for plentiful living, but anything more than that nobody is entitled to have as a matter of right. Anything more than that they may be allowed to possess for the time being as a matter of a concession, but not as a matter of right.

The question of resources also comes here. Of course, there will be mobilisation of resources when the regular Budget comes. The day after the Budget speech the papers