

12.38 hrs.

CONVICTION OF MEMBER

(Shri Jageshwar Yadav)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram, dated the 29th August, 1970, from the Additional Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Lakhimpur, District Kheri:

"Shri Jageshwar Yadav, Member, Lok Sabha, presently lodged in District Jail, Kheri, was tried under Section 188, Indian Penal Code, for violating orders promulgated under Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, and sentenced to simple imprisonment for three days by me on the 29th August, 1970."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): What about release of Members to enable them to vote tomorrow, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: That is between you and Government and not for me.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

FIFTEENTH REPORT

SHRI G. C. NAIK (Keonjhar): I beg to present the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1968-69

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1968-69.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO S. Q. No. 6 *re* SEARCH OF BAGGAGE OF OFFICERS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT BY CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT PALAM

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): In reply to Part (c) of the above mentioned question, a list of

the names of the officers of President's party who brought baggage in excess of free allowance, was given in Annexure-I to the answer. Due to an error, the name of Shri Sita Ram was included in the list. On verification of the original records available with Airport Customs it has been found that Shri Sita Ram did not bring any baggage in excess of the permissible free allowance and no duty was charged from him. The entry at S. No. 5 relating to Shri Sita Ram at Annexure-A I may accordingly be deleted. The pain that may have been caused to Shri Sita Ram is regretted.

STATEMENT *re*. INDIAN AIRLINES FOKKER FRIENDSHIP AIRCRAFT MISSING SINCE TAKE OFF FROM SILCHAR ON 29-8-1970.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Karan Singh.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati): On a point of order, Sir. On Saturday the missing of the plane took place and the House was sitting on that day upto 9.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Not 9.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: The Minister failed to announce in this House about this happening. This is the sixth time an incident regarding Fokker Friendship has taken place.

MR. SPEAKER: There is not going to be a debate. You rose on a point of order.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: It has been established that the plane lost its airworthiness. So these Fokker Friendship planes should be withdrawn from the service of Indian Airlines immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: You were not in it.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA: We might be.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank God, you were not there.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): There was a contradictory news report in the AIR about this tragedy. One of my classmates was involved in it. His name is Dr. J. K. Barua. Whatever that might be, Sir why

should there be any contradictory report like this? One report over the All India Radio at noon said that the wreckage were seen in Halflong. Then I was taken aback. How could a plane from Silchar on the way to Gauhati detour and go up to Halflong? I was taken aback when I heard that. He should explain that.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): I did not want to make a statement in the House till such time as I had basic facts. The hon Member will appreciate that it would not be correct to say something without facts. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Karan Singh.

DR. KARAN SINGH: It is with deep concern that I must report to the House that an Indian Airlines Fokker Friendship F-27-400 aircraft bearing registration number VT-DWT has been missing since the afternoon of Saturday the 29th August. The aircraft was on a scheduled passenger flight from Imphal to Calcutta via Silchar, Gauhati and Agartala. It took off from Silchar at 14:36 hours for Gauhati, and was in touch with the Air Traffic Control at Silchar till 14:44 hours.

The aircraft, carrying 34 passengers and a crew of 5, was due to land at Gauhati at 15:02 hours. When it failed to establish contact with the Air Traffic Control at Gauhati, immediate action was taken to locate it and all agencies concerned were alerted including the Indian Air Force and the district authorities. Since the route from Silchar to Gauhati passes close to Pakistan territory at certain points, the Pakistan authorities were also immediately informed.

Planes of the Indian Air Force including a Helicopter started an aerial search almost immediately. The search was continued yesterday when an aircraft of Indian Airlines also joined them. The aerial and ground search is being continued, but the missing aircraft has not been located despite several unconfirmed reports. The search was resumed this morning at 07:00 hours. The Pakistan authorities are extending their co-operation in tracing the aircraft on their side of the border.

I am sure the House will share my deep anguish about this matter. I can assure the House that every effort is being made to locate the missing aircraft.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar): It was established that due to strike in Delhi the planes were not checked properly. Technical checks of the planes have not been made. (*Interruption*) What about the technical checks of the planes? They have not been made. . . (*Interruptions*)

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : ट्रेस के बारे में कंट्रेडिक्ट्री रिपोर्ट रेडियो से प्रसारित हुई है। रात को कहा गया था कि ट्रेस नहीं हुआ है और दिन में कहा गया था कि हो गया है। इसको भी जरा एक्सप्लेन करिये।

MR. SPEAKER: He has made it very clear.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: What about the technical tests? Why were they not done? (*Interruption*)

DR. KARAN SINGH: May I clarify? (*Interruption*)

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati): You should withdraw all the Fokker Friendship planes.

DR. KARAN SINGH: One of the hon. Members has raised a question about the Fokker Friendship fleet. I can assure him that we have complete tests done. I can assure the hon. Member and the House that there was nothing wrong with the Fokker aircraft as such. In fact, these are among the most popular and widely used aircraft in the world. We are having complete check done. If we have even the slightest reason to suspect that there is something wrong we will withdraw it.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: You have not given the exact reason.

DR. KARAN SINGH: This is really extremely bad luck. But we will not be justified in grounding the whole lot. As I said, the test of these things were carried out. What the All India Radio gave out was an

[Dr. Karan Singh]

unconfirmed report. They said that they were quoting an unconfirmed report of the PTI.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: They never used the words 'unconfirmed report.' They did not say it.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): Yes; I also heard it. It said simply: 'PTI report.'

DR. KARAN SINGH: The All India Radio quoted the PTI report. The report happened to be wrong. The report was not correct.

श्री कंवरलाल गुप्त : रेडियो को कहना चाहिये था कि रिपोर्ट गलत निकली। यह नहीं कहा गया।

12.44 hrs.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

SHRI R. K. AMIN (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to consolidate and amend the law relating to customs duties upto the 1st April, 1971."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to consolidate and amend the law relating to customs duties upto the 1st April, 1971."

The motion was adopted

12.45 hrs.

[At this stage some visitors from the Public Gallery raised some slogans].

12.46 hrs.

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent insults to national honour.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent insults to national honour."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I introduce the Bill.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का विरोध करता हूँ। इसके पहले इसी तरह का एक विधेयक भ्रामा था जिस में हाई कोर्ट के जजों के एलाउन्सिस की बात कही गई थी। मैंने जो उस वक्त कहा था उसी को मैं दोहराना चाहता हूँ। विधेयक चाहे हाई कोर्ट के जजों से सम्बन्धित हों या सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजों से, जहाँ उनके एलाउन्सिस आदि बढ़ाने की बात होती है, वह कोई सोशल निसिसिटी से प्रेरित नहीं होती है। वह फिजूल खर्ची की बोटक है। जहाँ तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजों के