

12.11 hrs.

I.A.F. DAKOTA CRASH NEAR
BANIHAL

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Further to the statement made by me on the floor of the House on the 27th November 1963, in response to Calling Attention Notice regarding the IAF Dakota crash near Banihal Pass on the 22nd November 1963, I wish to make the following statement and place before the House the additional information which has craft and were killed:—

I regret to inform the House that in addition to the four I.A.F. Officers, who formed the crew of the ill-fated Dakota, and the four civilian employees who were on board the aircraft and were killed, the following two civilian personal attendants of the officers, were also on board the aircraft and were killed:—

1. Shri Ghulam Mohd.
2. Shri Sona-Ullah Butt.

I also regret to say that in the statement made by me on the 27th November 1963, there has been some mistake in reporting the correct names of three civilians. Their names are as under:—

- Shri N. C. Setty, and not Shri N. C. Chetty.
Shri Abdul Ghani, and not Shri Agnalik.
Shri Ali Sheikh, and not Shri Alrish Radge.

I should add the next of kin of all the deceased persons were informed correctly by the Unit at Jammu at the time. However, when the Unit transmitted the names to Air Headquarters at Delhi the names unfortunately got mutilated in transit.

The two additional names now reported as victims of the crash were personal servants of the officers. The unit, which was already at Jammu, was not aware of the fact that there were two personal attendants of officers travelling in the ill-fated aircraft at the time the reports about the casualties were sent. The two personal attendants who came to the Sri-

nagar airfield with the kit of the officers were vouched for their identity by the aircrew themselves at the main gate before they entered the airfield and got into the aircraft with the captain's permission at the last minute when the aircraft was about to taxi out for take-off.

There are orders forbidding the carriage of private individuals in service aircraft, and no permission had been obtained for these two personal attendants to travel by air by the captain of the aircraft from the squadron authorities. As I have already informed the House, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the accident. Full details will be known when the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry are received. The remedial measures, if any, which may be recommended by the Court of Inquiry in this regard will also be taken.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: That day questions were asked.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: After the correction, I want to ask a question. According to the hon. Minister this correction was necessary only because the message which was transmitted to the authorities here was mutilated. I want to know whether only this particular message was mutilated. If messages are mutilated like this, what is the fate of our Defence Ministry? What is the correct position, what steps have been taken?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has put his question.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Ja'ore): Before the hon. Minister answers, I only want to ask one thing. We can appreciate that this message in transmission got distorted somewhere, but he should take us into confidence and tell us whether the transmission arrangements are perfect. This is not the only message, they must be getting messages every day. So, we want to be assured that we have got perfect transmission arrangements.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Immediately on receiving this information, this question arose in my own mind, and Air Headquarters have assured me that the transmission arrangements are perfectly all right. But about these names they got rather confused.

Mr. Speaker: But even about names they should not be confused.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: They should not be confused. I quite agree, but they got confused, that is a fact.

12.14 hrs.

DRUGS AND COSMETICS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: (Hoshangabad): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) Report of the Joint Committee on the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 1963 and

Mr. Speaker: It is rather surprising that the laying of this Report on cosmetics has been left to Shri Kamath!

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Chairman and the Committee unanimously asked me to present this Report.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): What has he to do with cosmetics?

Mr. Speaker: The other Member interested is Shri Tyagi!

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The next part of it I will pass on to him, with your permission!

Mr. Speaker: He may complete.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

(2) Evidence given before the above Joint Committee.

12.15 hrs.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934".

The motion was adopted.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.15 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION IN
THE COUNTRY

Mr. Speaker: Shri A. M. Thomas may make his motion. The time allotted is ten hours. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that besides notices in regard to rise in price of foodgrains and sugar, I had received many notices about scarcity of fodder and death of cattle. I shall allow those Members to speak on these points also and the hon. Minister may kindly reply to those questions also.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Food Situation in the country with particular reference to rice and sugar be taken into consideration."

On the 12th of last month, about a fortnight back, I had occasion to make a statement on the rice situation and I also laid a statement on the problems of sugar, and gur and sugarcane price. In these, I had attempted to take the House into confidence and give a realistic picture of the situation and the prospects in the coming

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.