

I would conclude by saying that the Commission, the Government and hon. Members of this House should have a combined effort to see that these backward classes receive encouragement, help and sympathy so that they come up to the level of the general society and the provisions contained in the Constitution are fulfilled.

14.57 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: AIR CRASH NEAR
AGRA

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before we take up the discussion on Sugar situation, Shri Raj Bahadur will make a statement.

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I deeply regret to announce that the IAC Viscount VT-DIO which was operating the Night Airmail Service from Nagpur to Delhi early this morning has been reported to have crashed about 33 miles from Agra. The plane left Nagpur at 0230 hours on 11th September with 13 passengers besides 5 members of the Crew.

The last message received from the aircraft was at 0340 hours. The time of arrival of the aircraft at Palam Airport as intimated in the last message was 0434 hours.

Two Dakotas with search parties consisting of senior officers left Safdarjung Airport soon after they came to realise that the aircraft was over-due. The Indian Air Force also sent a search aircraft from Agra. The latest message received from I.A.F. Agra states that the I.A.F. search aircraft has located a crash four miles off Mania Railway station near village Jajao. The aircraft located is reported to be completely burnt out. It is feared that there may not be any survivors. The next of kin are being informed.

The certificates of airworthiness of the aircraft was renewed by the D.G. C.A. on 6th August, 1963 and was valid upto 6th August, 1964. The normal periodical maintenance checks have been regularly carried out on the aircraft. An I.A.F. Helicopter has been rushed to the site. The District Officials from Agra have also proceeded to the site with Ambulances and medical supplies.

The two Commanders of the aircraft were highly experienced pilots and have flown more than 12,000 hours each.

A court of enquiry will be instituted.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosangabad): On a point of information, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Does the hon. Minister happen to have with him the list of passengers who were on board?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got the list.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let us have the names.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Here are the names.

Bombay/Delhi Passengers

1. Mr. J. K. Nichwan,
C/o Atma Singh Manoo Nana-
bhai Mansion, Sir Pherozeshah
Mehta Road, Bombay-1.
2. Mr. V. J. Shah,
Nehru Nagar, Opposite Royal
Hotel, First Floor, Juhu, Bombay,
56.
3. Mr. K. Dutta,
Opposite Koliwada Station, 1st
Floor, Sion, Bombay-22.
4. Mr. J. Singh.
5. Mr. Riazuddin.

They were Bombay/Delhi Passengers. Then there were passengers from Madras.

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

Madras/Delhi Passengers

6. Mr. W. R. G. Ratnam,
Wireless Sales & Service, Mount
Road, Madras.
7. Mr. Hasan Marikar,
C/o Dr. (Kumari) Hasan Marikar,
8/A, Monteath Road, Egmore,
Madras.
8. Mr. M. V. Krishna Murthy,
Hind Merchantile Corporation,
2/171, Lloyds Road, Madras.
9. Mr. Silva,
111, Galle Road, Ratmalana,
Colombo.
10. Dharma Keerti,
883, Etulkotte, Kotte, Ceylon.

These were Madras/Delhi passengers. There were no passengers from Calcutta.

Nagpur/Delhi Passengers

11. Mr. M. Miyamoto.
12. Mr. Y. Nishikawa.
13. Mr. R. Onoe.

The passengers, No. 9 and No. 10, are Ceylonese citizens and passengers, No. 11, No. 12 and No. 13, are Japanese nationals.

15 hrs.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj (Wardha): What are the names of the crew?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have got the names. Capt. Clowsley was the Commander, the first pilot, and the second pilot was Capt. Badhwar. Both of them had flown more than 12,000 hours each. Then, the Radio Officer was Shri Sahni; Air Hostess Miss Scott and the Flight Steward Pacheco.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The hon. Minister has stated that a departmental enquiry will be conducted...

Shri Raj Bahadur: No departmental enquiry. A court of enquiry will be instituted which means there will

be a judicial officer—a judge in-charge of this.

Shri Balkrishna Wasnik (Gondia): May I submit that this is not the first time when the air crash has taken place to a Plane which flew from Nagpur? There have been several accidents and I fear that there is something wrong in the engineering staff at Nagpur. That should be looked into by the court of enquiry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sure the House deeply regrets this tragedy, and the sympathies of the House will be conveyed to the members of the bereaved families.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: Could the Minister tell us whether they suspect that the weather was bad or anything else was wrong? It may not be a final, conclusive, evidence. But do they suspect that it was a bad weather or anything else was wrong?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The court of enquiry will go into that. But one thing is clear that the aircraft had flown from 0230 hours to 0340 hours, that is, it had already flown for 1 hour and 10 minutes. There may be something wrong that happened after that.

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): Could the hon. Minister kindly tell us as to what type of message had been received at the Palam airport, as to what sort of trouble it got, whether it was weather that was responsible...

Shri Raj Bahadur: The court of enquiry will go into that.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Of course, the court of enquiry will go into that. But the public also wants to know whether the Government is apprised of the suspected reasons or possible reasons for this air crash. I want to know what is the message that has been received at the Palam airport as to whether it lost its control or whether any defect deve-

loped in the aircraft or whether it was simply because of weather and all that.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Mohiuddin): As far as I am aware, the aircraft did not contact Delhi during its passage. The last message was to Bombay to the effect that the aircraft was leaving the Bombay flight area information region, and that message was relayed to Delhi that it had left the area at a particular time. As far as I am aware, there was no contact with Delhi FIR.

15.06 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: SUGAR SITUATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only a short discussion. The time allotted is 2 hours. So, the hon. Members should be very brief. Shri Kashi Nath Pande.

Shri K. N. Pande (Hata): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.....

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav (Barabanki): Before he speaks, I have to make one submission.

माननीय सदस्य जिस सिलसिले में ब स आरम्भ कर रहे हैं, उसी के बारे में मुझे कुछ निवेदन करना है। यह चीनी से सम्बन्धित नीति का प्रश्न है। उसके साथ खांडसारी, गुड़, गन्ने के दाम आदि सब चीजें आ जाती हैं। यह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है जिसपर बहुत अधिक लोग बोलना चाहते हैं। खास तौर से वे लोग जिन की कुछ इस विषय पर नीतियां हैं, वे बोलना चाहते हैं। इसलिए उनकी समय कम से कम पन्द्र मिनट मिलना चाहिये। अभी वे अपनी बात रख सकेंगे—

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, नहीं।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : दूसरा मेरा निवेदन यह है कि दो घंटे का जो समय इसके लिए रखा गया है, वह बहुत कम है। उससे

पूरा नहीं पड़ेगा। इस पर कम से कम चार पांच घंटे हों।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : देखूंगा।

Shri K. N. Pande: I am very happy that although this subject has come up rather late before the House for discussion, yet it has come at last.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : इस में गुड़ भी शामिल है, खांडसारी भी शामिल है। देसी भाषा में बोलिये।

श्री काशी नाथ पांडे : वह आपके जिम्मे कर दिया है।

श्री काशी राम गुप्त (अलवर) पांडे जी, कभी कभी तो हिन्दी में बोल दिया करो।

Shri K. N. Pande: This discussion is being raised as a result of the statement made by the ex-Food Minister on the floor of this House on the 17th April, 1963, when he fixed ex-factory price of sugar with a view to control the sugar prices, and also in order to check further rise in sugar prices and to give relief to the consumers who were very particular and who had got some apprehensions that as the production of sugar was going to be short in the country, the prices would go very high. The first reason that the hon. Minister had advanced for the Sugar (Control) Order, under which the ex-factory price of sugar was fixed was this. He said:

"To arrest soaring sugar prices, the Union Government today issued orders under the Defence of India Rules fixing quotas and ex-factory prices for the States."

Then, the note further says:

"As announced by the Food Minister, Shri S. K. Patil, in the Lok Sabha, the Government intends to ensure equitable distribution of sugar among consumers at a reasonable price through regular releases and market regulations."