

has gone to Aurangabad with Secretary, Civil Aviation to see on-the spot

commandos to Adampur near Amritsar and then to Amritsar by helicopters

**(iii) Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-427 on 24th April 1993**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION OF TOURISUM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)  
Hon'ble members are aware of the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-427 on 24th April, 1993

The flight took off from Delhi at 1357 hrs for Srinagar. At 1443 hrs a message was received by Air Traffic Control Delhi that the plane had been hijacked and was heading for Kabul. A passenger on board who identified himself as Syed Salauddin, claimed that he was carrying pistols and a hand grenade and demanded that the flight be taken to Kabul. Air Traffic Control of Lahore refused to permit the aircraft to enter Pakistan airspace. The aircraft ultimately landed at 1520 hrs, at Amritsar where the hijacker kept the entire crew and passengers hostage and demanded refuelling so that the aircraft may proceed to Kabul. 141 persons were on board, 126 passengers, 9 infants and 6 crew members.

The Crisis Management Group (CMG) at the Cabinet Secretariat and the Central Committee at Delhi Airport were activated and contact was established with Amritsar where the Deputy Commissioner and the Senior Superintendent of Police of the district had arrived and taken up negotiations. The Director General of Punjab Police was asked to proceed to Amritsar where he reached at about 1800 hrs, and took charge of negotiations.

There was prolonged negotiation with the hijacker but he remained adamant on his demand to take the plane to Kabul. The hijacker had also fired a warning shot which pierced through the body of the aircraft.

The CMG advised the negotiating group at Amritsar to continue negotiations with a view to weaning down the hijacker. The CMG also despatched National Security Guards (NSG)

Continued negotiations failed and the hijacker remained adamant even after being told that Kabul Airport was closed for the night and Pakistan Government had prohibited entry into their airspace. At around 2300 hrs the hijacker gave a final ultimatum for refuelling the aircraft failing which he would blow it up. The CMG gave green signal to the NSG commandos and the negotiating group at Amritsar to storm the plane leaving to their discretion the timing of the storming operation depending upon assessment of the ground situation.

Storming operation by NSG started at about 0100 hrs, on 25th April and in a few minutes the hijacking was terminated without any casualty or injury to any passenger or crew members. There was also no further damage to the aircraft. Sudden entry of the commandos into the aircraft totally surprised and dazed the hijacker. As a late reaction he tried to fire but before he could do so he was shot at with a silencer pistol by NSG commando brought out in an injured state to the tarmac and handed over to the local police. Director General of Punjab Police has reported that while the hijacker was being shifted to a vehicle by the local police it was found that he had succumbed to the injury.

The identity of the hijacker has not yet been established. Two loaded 9mm pistols were recovered from his person.

Two criminal cases, one by Punjab Police and another by Delhi Police, have been registered under the relevant provisions of the Anti-hijacking Act, Indian Penal Code, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act. Investigation is in progress.

Preliminary assessment indicates security lapse at Delhi Airport. Delhi Police have suspended an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector. Government have also instituted an inquiry by Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

[Sh Ghulam Nabi Azad]

to look into the security lapse, assess the extent thereof, fix responsibility for the lapse and recommend remedial measures. Meanwhile, security has been beefed up.

While full facts would come to light after completion of the inquiry and investigations by Police, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record Government's appreciation of the manner in which the Commander and the crew of the flight managed the contingency with patience. I would also like to compliment the passengers for having borne the agony of the hijack with fortitude and remaining calm throughout. I hope the House is pleased with the performance of the National Security Guards in carrying out a neat and swift operation by which the hijack was terminated and the passengers and crew members were saved of further harassment.

16.25hrs

RE STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF  
HIJACKING OF INDIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT  
IC 427 on 24th April 1993

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) Nothing now has been stated the same information that appeared in newspapers has been compiled and narrated. In the morning we had asked some questions as to where the hijacker was shot dead, where did he stay in Delhi, what happened to the two persons who were with him, who is inquiring into the case, CBI or any other agency? Please tell us the name of the terrorist organisation of Kashmir to which he belonged.

MR CHAIRMAN He has said that he will give the information.

SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) It is a serious matter. On the one hand, I

congratulate the S P G for its excellent performance but on the other hand I would like to say with deep sorrow that law and order situation has been deteriorating ever since Shri Pilot has taken charge of the Internal Security. In a way he had been kind enough that he has not suspended a constable, he has suspended only on inspector. The responsibility for the airport security is that of the security in charge D C P. He as well as your friend Mr Kaushal should be relieved of their charge. This is not an ordinary matter. I have a famous book with me.

MR CHAIRMAN He has told an inquiry will be ordered into it.

SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH This book narrates how an attempt on the life of De Gaulle was made. It was the same scenario here. If you wish I can give that book to you. The film is also available. Our friend K P Singh Deo can supply the film. The incident is exactly the same.

MR CHAIRMAN Please give every Member a copy each.

SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH I can give it to all the Members especially to Shri Rajesh Pilot for reading as he has made a mockery of the internal security. One Sub-inspector has been suspended. The more agonising part is that another plane has crashed today at Aurangabad.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA Which agency is inquiring into it? In the morning he had promised to reply to every question, we have asked only 3-4 questions, he should reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Bath) Mr Chairman Sir, during zero hour today when this question was raised by Shri Madan Lal Khurana, the honourable Minister of State in the Department of Internal Security had said that inquiry was going on and that he would reply to each and every question. But he has not said anything about how that man died.

MR CHAIRMAN He has told that the man was hit by a bullet and he died when he was being taken out

SHRIMADANLAL KHURANA Outside or inside? This is what we want to know, this should be inquired into Who is inquiring into it

SHRI NITISH KUMAR This a cock and bull story and not a statement by the Minister

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Minister, Please clarify these two points Firstly, where and how the man died and secondly which agency has been asked to inquire into it

SHRI RAJESH PILOT Mr Chairman, Sir, is this the personal opinion of the honourable Member or is he saying what Shri Hari Kishoreji has said I have also said it in my statement Now two things are there in the minds of Shri Madan Lal Khurana and all the Members So, I would like to tell that as the Commando Operation started, 6 Commandos entered the plane simultaneously from 6 emergency exits There was darkness all around as the window screen was pulled down by the hijacker knowingly When the commando reached near the cockpit the hijacker became perplexed and he tried to fire at the commando but by then the commando had fired at him in the plane Then he was brought down, he walked on the ladder himself commandos were with him He had spoken and seen around when he was handed over to the police When he was being taken to the hospital in the police van he died So, he was fired at inside the aeroplane sound was not heard because a silencer was fitted in the weapon When he was brought out by the commandos he was bleeding Everyone has been him walking

The second question pertains to inquiry, as raised by Shri Hari Kishore Singh Inquiry is going on We had fixed a yardstick in this regard that there has been some security lapse on the part of the shift in charge on duty at that time Inquiry has been conducted by the security

Secretary who sits separately in the cabinet Secretariat He has no connection with any of the departments Those found guilty will be punished and the lapses found by the inquiry will be rectified and for that there may be a need for a book or a film We all cannot become perfect to plan for hundred years It cannot be said that there may be no lapses during hundred years The Government will take every possible step to find out where and how the lapses have taken place and how these can be rectified As regards the question of Shri Hari Kishore that internal security has deteriorated I would tell Shri Hari Kishoreji that he should see outside Bihar also (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMADANLAL KHURANA Which are the agencies involved in the investigations?

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Ajamgarh) I would like to know about one aspect of this inquiry Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had raised a question this morning that undoubtedly there had been security lapse and inquiry is being conducted but the question is that hijacking has been done in Delhi If hijacking had been done in Srinagar it was understandable How did he reach Delhi? Whether there were other people of his group who helped him?

SHRI RAJVEERSINGH (Aonla) Which doctor put plaster on his leg and how did that revolver reach inside?

SHRIMADANLAL KHURANA This aspect is different from security I would like to know from the hon Minister whether any inquiry would be conducted in this regard also This feeling is spreading among the people that it is not safe to travel in plane

MR CHAIRMAN Case has been registered after a lot of efforts and it is not so that just F I R has been registered and the matter is over F I R has been registered for conducting an inquiry and the inquiry is being conducted (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) Nothing has come out regarding planning (*Interruptions*) Everybody is allowed to say, why not? (*Interruptions*) What I am objecting to the Statement is that nothing has come out about planning behind this (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN This cross-examination cannot end

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA He has not mentioned anything about the planning which has gone behind this particular mission (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA Sir let me say You have allowed him to say (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMADAN LAL KHURANA You have not taken any action against the security incharge, Who is responsible? It is a total failure of security agencies He stayed in Delhi for several days (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN Please note there is no provision for clarifications here Since this morning you had said that there are two three points I allowed you to raise these queries

SHRIMADAN LAL KHURANA Mr Chairman, Sir we would like to know the time by which this inquiry is likely to be completed? (*Interruptions*) Sir whenever any incident takes place it is said that steps are being taken in this regard but everything stops within ten days I would like to know if any time-limit has been fixed for the completion of enquiry? Public should be apprised of the facts Time limit should be fixed

SHRIRAJVEERSINGH (Aonla) We would like to know when the Minister of State for

Internal Security is being dropped from the cabinet The incidents are constantly on the increase after his induction If he is dropped everything would be all right

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA What we want to know is very simple

Sir, obviously this particular episode has been a very planned one Now we are agitated because the killing of this person the hijacker, has precluded the inquiry about the planning- who were the people behind it- because that is what may have happened Now if the Minister can assure us let him do so that the death of this person does not preclude a full inquiry into the planning and conspiracy which has gone behind it This is what we want the Minister to assure us because from the stage of the inquiry it must now be apparent whether they will have any lead to any person who has been involved in the conspiracy and from whom they can get the details We want the assurance from him

SHRI RAJESH PILOT Mr Chairman Sir two points have been mainly raised One is that the inquiry should be time bound I totally share the feelings of the hon Members that in such cases we should have time-bound inquiry so that action should be taken immediately because delayed action in such cases really does not produce the required results I will request my colleague because this inquiry has been ordered by the Civil Aviation Ministry

I will request my colleague Ghulam Nabi to put a time frame for this inquiry and make it a time bound inquiry

The second point has been raised- in the morning also Atal Bihari Vajapayeeji has mentioned that it is a serious matter to know the connections the plan the motive behind this hijack It is a very serious concern and that is why considering this factor we are getting this inquiry into by the Secretary (Security) who

has an access to the external agency and internal agency, We will keep that point in mind so that Government knows completely the plan where he stayed, how he stayed, what he planned and who planned. Because, this is certainly a planned thing. This is not something that somebody has played some other tactics, which the hijacker of Delhi-Hyderabad flight had done. This is certainly a planned hijacking. That will give a scope to find out. That is why Secretary (Security) who comes directly under Cabinet Secretary has been ordered. This factor will certainly be taken care of. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not intend to speak but since the series of questions has started, I would also like to ask a short question. Generally the hijacker lays down some conditions. He wanted to take the plane to Kabul. Did he lay down some conditions or he wanted to get down in Kabul. Who was that man? Were some other people of his group also with him? These questions are required to be answered urgently. Whether questions have been raised or objections have been raised regarding the killing of the hijacker. The basic question is that if that man has died then it is not possible to get facts about his motives etc. It was reported in newspapers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of regret that we have to depend upon newspapers for information and newspapers reported that there were some passengers without luggage whose addresses are not correct. Was any other accomplice present in the plane along with him? Has Government paid attention to all these aspects?

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : They have not done any inquiry at all. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is serious matter. I don't mind replying query which any hon. Member had raised, as special case.

[Translation]

Sir, Atalji has made certain points, viz, whether other persons of his group were also there. It has appeared in newspapers, that some of the passengers did not have any luggage. All these points have been considered. Who was the agent through which the hijacker had booked his seat. (Interruptions)

Which agent had booked the seats of the passengers? It is certain that during conversation over R.T., he did not put any conditions. He only said that plane should be taken to Kabul. Nobody asked him why it should be flown to Kabul. Nothing of this sort has come to light. He was adamant on taking the plane to Kabul after re-fueling. He said that if he was not allowed to take the plane to Kabul, he would blow it up.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He had no specific demand, all of his demands were general. If he made any special demand, tell about that. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is better if we take this matter seriously. It is true that this is a serious matter. The whole of the country is worried and it has created a very critical situation. I would like to assure the House that I would talk to the Minister of Civil Aviation and ask him to conduct a time-bound inquiry. It would take into consideration all the aspects to which Government and other agencies have drawn attention. Government has admitted that it has initiated inquiry to find out how this happened.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Irandol) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no action has been taken against any engineer or the maintenance staff for the accidents that took place in the past. Prime facie it is clear that the engine caught fire in this accident. In the new statement, Government should clarify whether the maintenance staff was suspended or not. This should be inquired because afterwards nothing comes out. Another important factor is this that all crew members have escaped death. How did it happen because the

[Sh. Vijay N. Patil]

main responsibility of the crew members is to save the passengers and to evacuate the people. This should also be inquired into as to how crew members were safe while some of the passengers dies due to burns.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They say they are finding it out.

(English)

SHRI Inder Jit (Darjeeling) : One short query. No light has yet been thrown about the identity of this particular individual. Some ticket could have been issued to him. There would be some name which would be available with the Government and the authorities. So, I would request the Minister to kindly throw some light on the identity of the individual.

The Home Minister has just said he was shot in the head, if I heard him correctly. (Interruptions) If he was shot in the head, then there should be some bloodstains inside the plane. The newspaper reports say today that there were no bloodstains within the aircraft.

So, kindly throw some light on these points so that there is no scope for any doubt: (a) in regard to bloodstains; (b) in regard to the identity. Surely something must be known about the identity. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Inder Jit, with such cross-examination, we will not be able to reach anywhere.

(Interruptions)

16.46 hrs

#### GENERAL BUDGET 1993-94- GENERAL DISCUSSION

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA (Bilhaur) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the 1993-94

Budget because it is against the principles of swadeshi, swarajya and self-reliance. It seems as if the Budget has been dictated or produced by some other agency. Although our Minister of Finance Shri Manmohan Singh is the hero, still foreign financial institutions are behind it. Although at a glance, the Budget appears to be good but if the supporter of swadeshi, Gandhiji, would have been alive, he would have cried over the plight of rural poor farmers, workers and employees. The population of this country is one sixth of the total world population. Very meagre employment opportunities have been generated for a population of eighty five crores. One sided attention to machinisation, computerisation and automation in modern technology alone cannot give any benefit to us. Our economic set up rests on the activities of farmers, people like small traders, pavement shopkeepers, workers, tribals, people living in forests, deserts and hilly areas and poor fishermen. Our economic policies should be framed for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we go on doing machinisation in-stead of providing employment to them, the number of unemployed persons would go on increasing unabated creating an atmosphere of lawlessness and violence creating law and order problems. The problems of poverty, hunger and unemployment would grow and to tackle these problems Government would have to prepare another Budget for allocation of funds. Prevention is always better than cure. Thus budget is not leading the country to that direction. In the first three paragraphs of Budget, the hon. Minister of Finance has referred to the difficult situation in which the Government came to power. At that time Foreign Exchange position was not satisfactory, international reputation was not good, investors has no trust, economic development was deteriorating. He has also stated that Government has brought radical changes in these twenty months. I would like to submit that Government has not raised foreign exchange reserves. It has not raised national income. It has not promoted export. Government has earned foreign ex-