

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not yet know where it is.

Shri Achar (Mangalore): In the Library they may keep at least a dozen copies of the evidence.

Mr. Speaker: There the matter stands. If we want to have it as early as possible, we may not be able to have the copies. It is to be taken up after the President's Address, after only two or three days, very shortly after the President's Address, hon. Members may or may not have the copies. Government will try to find out if it is possible. If it is possible, one copy may be placed; otherwise, we will go with the evidence that has been made available in the press.

STATEMENT RE: CRASH OF AN I.A.F. AIRCRAFT

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Government deeply regret to have to inform the House that an Indian Air Force Bomber, a Liberator, struck high hills in bad weather near Coimbatore and crashed at 0915 hours on the 5th of February, 1958, and all the 10 service personnel who were on board were killed. The aircraft was completely destroyed.

This aircraft was on a routine naval operational exercise and flying from Sulur, Coimbatore, to Cochin. The names of persons involved in this fatal accident are Fit. Lt. D. Kochar, Fg. Off S D Jadav, Fg. Off. A. K. Ghosh, Fg. Off N. K. Tamhankar, Lt. C. P. Ramachandran (Navy), Warrant Officer C. B. Menon, Fit. Sgt. S. Govindaswami, Sgt. K. Natarajan, Sgt. S. N. Sharma and Sgt. S. S. Sachar.

The next-of-kin of the above personnel were informed as soon as information of the accident and the fatalities were known to Air Headquarters and according to usual practice. Claims for compensation etc. will be considered and implemented in accordance with rules and promptly. Personal messages of sympathy and condolence were sent

by me on behalf of the Armed Forces and the Government to the next-of-kin of each of the above personnel by a personal letter.

Government would like to pay their tribute in this House to these valiant officers of our Armed Forces who thus lost their lives in the course of the discharge of their duties in the service of the country. Although nothing by way of any statement can serve to replace the great grief of the bereaved, the sympathy of Government and this House will, we hope, in some small measure, serve to assuage their feelings of grief and be of some consolation to the fellow officers and men who worked with them and feel their loss very deeply. Government also hope that the next-of-kin and other bereaved will find the strength to make the re-adjustments imposed upon them by this calamity.

A court of Enquiry according to Air Force rules has been ordered. No further particulars are available at present nor can be given until the findings of the Court of Enquiry are received, as any such can only be based on speculation or inadequate information and will therefore nor be fair or purposeful.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY TO STARRED QUESTION No. 1142

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): In reply to a supplementary question asked by Shri Thirumala Rao on the 16th December, 1957, arising out of Starred Question No. 1142 by Shri Jhulan Sinha regarding interest on loans to shipping companies, I had stated that about Rs. 50 crores were to be invested in the non-lapsable Shipping Development Fund made up of contributions from the Consolidated Fund of India of Rs. 10 crores during the years 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 and repayments of the loans

[Shri Raj Bahadur]

or interest thereon. This information given by me was based upon an earlier proposal and was not quite correct. I would, therefore, like to clarify the answer by further informing the House that what has been decided is that the quantum of the annual contribution to be made from the Consolidated Fund of India to the new fund would be determined from time to time in accordance with the overall financial position of the country.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEVENTEENTH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th February, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House agrees with the Seventeenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th February, 1958."

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I would like to know what happened to the motion regarding the decisions of the Darjeeling Rehabilitation Ministers' Conference that has just been put off. It came on the agenda papers, but it has disappeared. Since I could not attend the Business Advisory Committee meeting, I would like to know what has happened to it.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: It was placed on the agenda provisionally. Both yourself and the House are aware that it has been the convention of the House that matters like those contained in this motion are not allowed generally to be discussed on the eve of the President's Address or the

general discussion of the budget. We have always thought that such matters could always be discussed during that period. Therefore, this matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and the Business Advisory Committee also came to the conclusion that hon. Members would get ample opportunity to discuss that matter in the debate on the President's Address or during the general discussion of the budget coming very soon or during the discussion of the demands of the Ministry concerned. In view of all these things, we are not proposing to bring it before the House.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: May I remind the House of an assurance given in the Business Advisory Committee last time? A request was made to Members not to press this, so that it can be put on the agenda paper early this session. At that time it was clearly known that the next session would be the budget session. After that only we agreed that we would not press for it last session. So, I do not quite understand how this is now being brought forward as an excuse for shutting it out from the agenda.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): Actually I found from the papers circulated that this particular motion was put down for Wednesday and then it was withdrawn. In the revised list of business, it was no longer there.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have explained why it has been taken out. There was a discussion in the Business Advisory Committee and we also thought that in view of the convention of the House that such matters are not allowed to be discussed on the eve of the debate on the President's Address.....

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty: When did this convention come about? I have not known it.