

Service (Non-European Members)
Provident Fund Rules, 1943.

(7) G.S.R. No. 127, dated the 15th March, 1958, making certain amendments to the Secretary of State's Services (General Provident Fund) Rules, 1943.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.-611/58.]

12 hrs.

ACCIDENT TO I.A.C. DAKOTA

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): I am very sorry to give intimation to this House of an aircraft accident which, it is feared took place at approximately 12.25 hrs. IST yesterday (24th March, 1958). The aircraft involved was Dakota VT-CYN. It belonged to the Indian Airlines Corporation but was leased to a private firm, I.A.C. Associates, and was being operated by them. The aeroplane was in passenger-cum-freight service and it departed from Simra at 12.08 hours IST. The expected time of arrival at Kathmandu was 12.35 hrs. The last radio contact of the aeroplane was at 12.19 hrs. stating that it was landing at Kathmandu in about 10 minutes.

There was a crew of 4 consisting of Commander Capt. Sarin, Co-pilot Capt. Moitra, Radio Officer Shri Rao and Steward Shri Bose. There were 16 passengers but their names are not yet known. A search aircraft, the King's Dakota aircraft VT-CVC took off at 16.00 hrs. followed by two other I.A.C. Dakota aircraft. All aircraft returned without being able to locate the missing aircraft yesterday.

I would also like to add that the information so far received is very uncertain. We had earlier received information this morning that the aircraft had crashed and had been located though the exact site was not intimated. Then, unconfirmed reports were received that one person was killed and 12 injured and 7 not yet

accounted for. But, since then, a few minutes ago, a further report has been received that this news is not correct. I am mentioning this so that there may be no speculation. No definite information has yet been received. A Helicopter has already been despatched by the Kalinga Airlines and I.A.F. Dakotas have also been requested to take up the search.

Shri Biren Roy (Calcutta—South West): Will the hon. Minister place before the House any further report that may be received?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As soon as any information is received, I will place it before the House.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kannara): Sir, it is well known that the Nepal and Delhi Kashmir routes are abnormally bad in weather for flying. I want to know whether Government or the Director of Civil Aviation has drawn up a list of instructions for pilots before they take off?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I need hardly add that every precaution is taken and the pilots also care for their own lives. Nobody would like to fly unless safety measures are taken.

CLARIFICATION OF ANSWERS TO QUESTION

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Sir, I rise to make a statement in clarification of answers which I had given in reply to certain supplementaries to Question No. 764 on the 8th of March 1958, about the postponement of outstanding payments for the Rourkela Steel Plant.

I understand the correct position is as follows:

The agreement is in respect of the payments outstanding to West German firms, for the supply of plant and equipment to the Rourkela Steel plant. It is between Government of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Under this agreement, the Government of India have to deliver to the German