

sympathy for the Tibetan cause is concerned.

And one small sentence I want to bring to your notice. It has hurt us tremendously. It is that India is being bracketed with the Chiang-kai-Shek gang. There is a release today in which it is said that they were coming to India because India was going to show sympathy. These are things of which the Government should take serious note. We want friendship, and we are dedicated to friendship with China, but we are not trying to purchase it by closing our eyes, by gagging our mouth and plugging our ears and drugging our conscience. This needs to be very much impressed.

Mr. Speaker: Even if we have a discussion, nothing can prevent them from going on saying it.

12:56 hrs.

**.MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.  
CRASH OF IAC AIRCRAFT**

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri S. M. Banerjee regarding the crash of an IAC plane.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I want to say something about this.

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): I deeply regret to give intimation to this House of an accident to an Indian Airlines Corporation Dakota aircraft which took place on the 29th March, 1959. All the four members of the crew and the 20 passengers on board the aircraft were killed. The aircraft VT-CGI piloted by Capt. S. K. Chakravarty was operating the Agartala-Kumbhigram sector of the scheduled passenger service from Calcutta to Imphal. It took off from Agartala at 10-10 A.M. IST. The last radio contact with the aircraft was at 10-45 A.M. when it reported flying in

a thunder storm. As the aircraft did not arrive at Kumbhigram, search action was initiated. A message was received by the Aerodrome Officer at Kumbhigram from the SDO, Hallakandi about 16 miles south-west of Silchar at approximately 12-30 hours stating that the aircraft had crashed at Netaji Nagar about 20 miles from Hallakandi. According to latest information received this morning, the aircraft was totally wrecked and the wreckage was found scattered along a distance of about two miles. The aircraft had crashed in a tea garden in Maneknagar, 15 miles south-west of Hallakandi. The aircraft carried 20 passengers, including three infants and four members of Crew. The names of the members of the crew and the passengers are as follows:—

**Crew:**

1. Pilot Capt. S. K. Chakravarty.
2. Co-Pilot Shri A. P. S. Cherra.
3. Radio Officer Shri P. R. Kar.
4. Steward Shri P. D'Souza.

**Passengers:**

1. Shri S. K. Patoa.
2. Shrimati Patoa.
3. Infant Patoa.
4. Shri S. K. Koley.
5. Shrimati S. Koley.
6. Shrimati P. Saha.
7. Kumari Kalyani.
8. Kumari Sabita.
9. Baby Saha.
10. Shrimati P. Barua.
11. Infant Barua.
12. Shri P. Ganguly.
13. Shrimati B. Chakravarty.
14. Shri R. C. Patroa.
15. Shri S. Talapatra.
16. Shri R. J. Singh.
17. Shri A. C. Das.
18. Shri S. K. Debrath.
19. Shri P. N. Saha.
20. Shri S. Bhattacharjee.

[Shri Mohiuddin]

The General Manager of the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Inspector of Accidents have proceeded to the site of the accident.

The Government of India have decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to investigate the accident.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: About this particular accident, as he has said, the plane started at 8 A.M. from Calcutta, and the weather was reported to be bad, and there was a message to that effect from the plane. I want to know whether actually the weather was also bad in Calcutta, and if so, why this plane had at all flown.

The second point is whether these people, the 25 people who have died were actually insured at the time of boarding. I do not know what happened. There have been various accidents. This is the third accident I believe.

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I just want to ask one question. This particular plane sent out an S.O.S. saying that the weather was very bad. I should like to know whether after receiving the S.O.S. any other aircraft was sent behind them, or whether they completely crashed immediately.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): Since a court of inquiry is to be appointed, it will be premature to discuss this matter here, whether the weather was good, or something else was sent. This is all a matter that has got to be enquired into. Beyond what my hon. colleague has read, we have no information at this time, and I think it would not be wise to discuss those things while the court of enquiry will be sitting and enquiring into them.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): May I ask for one clarification?

Mr. Speaker: Was any other aircraft sent or not? Is that such a secret?

Shri S. K. Patil: In a situation like that when the weather was so bad, surely one does not expect that another aircraft will be sent immediately after that.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): A court of inquiry is going to be appointed. I would like to know what the composition of this court of inquiry will be. Will it be like any other court, because here the accident, as you have mentioned, is of a serious nature, where the whole aircraft has crashed and 24 people have been killed. So, if they have got the personnel, let the Government inform us. We would like to know what the personnel is, on what basis they are going to have the court of inquiry.

Shri Mohiuddin: The personnel is being considered and the names will be announced later. It has not been decided yet. The full information was received only last evening.

13 hrs.

Shri A. C. Guha: It has been stated that this particular aircraft sent a message saying that it was in some bad weather. I want to know whether the Agartala Aerodrome got any previous intimation of the bad weather. If so, why was the aircraft allowed to fly?

Shri Mohiuddin: I cannot say whether there was sufficient information available to the aerodrome authorities to decide to allow it to go or not. Every aerodrome gives the briefing to the Pilot about weather conditions prevailing in that area.

Shri Prabhat Kar rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow a discussion.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): What the hon. Minister has said is nothing new. He has only stated what has already appeared in the papers.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no meaning in continuing like this. The hon. Minister has only got what he has stated to the House—nothing more. There is no point in going on probing into it.

It is rather unfortunate that this accident should have happened involving the death of 24 persons. Of course, the House expresses its deep sense of sorrow at this unfortunate accident and our condolences and sympathies will go forth to the members of the families of the deceased. I am sure a thorough investigation will be made into this matter, and all available information, as soon as it is obtained, will be placed before the House.

In view of what the Minister has stated, I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES RENDERED HOMELESS IN DUST AND THUNDERSTORM IN DELHI

**Mr. Speaker:** There is notice of another adjournment motion from Shri S. M. Banerjee, regarding:

"Need for immediate financial assistance to all families who are rendered homeless as a result of severe dust and thunderstorm in Delhi on the 29th March, 1959...."

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to make a submission. I know the Government are prepared to give them assistance. But those residents of Purana Quila have been declared as squatters. So I do not know what will be the attitude of the Government towards these displaced persons in Purana Quila. They have suffered more. I want an assurance from Government in this connection. That was the purpose of my adjournment motion.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant):** So far as the sufferings of these people go, everyone, including every Member of Government, will

have sympathy with them. I understand the matter is being looked into. Whatever can reasonably be done by way of relief will, I think, be arranged. The storm was altogether unexpected, and it has caused suffering to these people. We will look into the matter and see what can be done.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** About the residents of Purana Quila also.

**Mr. Speaker:** In view of this, I decline to give my consent to the adjournment motion.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

**Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad):** I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)—India Security Press, Nasik.

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRING BY PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS ON INDIAN CONSTABLES

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** As regards this matter, we thought that a Short Notice Question would be admitted in which case we would have been able to ask questions. Unfortunately, that is not possible in respect of a Calling Attention notice. So we should be permitted to ask some questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow one or two questions by hon. Members who come from that area.

**Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur):** Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance—