

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 9, 1988 | Phalguna 19,
1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Extradition of Terrorist Responsible for 'Kanishka, Plane Crash

*201. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the suspected terrorist responsible for 'Kanishka' plane crash in June, 1985 has been arrested in England;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to extradite the accused to India; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to find out further details in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) A Canadian citizen, Inderjeet Singh Reyat (he is also a citizen of U.K.) was arrested on February 5, 1988, in England. The charges against him relate to the explosion at Narita airport, Japan, on June 23, 1985. Justice B. N. Kirpal's report had concluded that there may be a linkage between the Narita incident and the Kanishka crash.

(b) Canadian authorities have made a request to the British courts for the return of Reyat to Canada.

(c) Government is in touch with the

Canadian authorities on further developments in this matter.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The man who is arrested, Inderjeet Singh Reyat, is having double passport and about three weeks prior to the incident, he was arrested for possession of dynamite and he was punished with fine also. Under Canadian Pacific Airline, in the charge-sheet which is given to Mr. Lal Sing and Amand Sing, the names mentioned are these two people's names. The two packages were put in the Canadian Pacific Airline. They were by Air India, one from London to Bombay and the other from Tokyo to Bombay. These fortunately exploded at the airport at Tokyo and killed two persons. On these charges, the man is arrested for 8 charges, for possession of dynamite etc.

Another package was in the name of Amand Sing. According to the charge-sheet, it had gone in the Kanishka which blew up. There is lot of coordination between all these points. Now, the Canadian Police have put up all these things that the two persons who landed in the Pacific Canadian airlines withdrew and their luggage was not held up. It went with the Air India luggages. It was a planned thing. This man is Khalistan protagonist and he is an electronic engineer. All such type of charge-sheets are put up against this man by the Canadian Airlines and he is stated to be extradited from London to Canada.

What is the Government doing ? 329 people are killed and even the report which the Enquiry Committee has given and the charges put up by the Canadian Police, are all tallying.

My specific question is, are you going to make some more efforts to get the details ? Actually, the Canadian Police and England court are acting more vigorously. Everything is done by the Khalistan people to kill your people. But still these people are

acting very vigorously. I want the charge-sheet of all these people. What is the Government doing? Are you extraditing this man here or are you sending your people to go into more details?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I am very well aware and. . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You also question and he will also reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I am well aware and conscious of Dr. Datta Samant's commitment to trade unions unionism but I am not sure of his commitment to grammar and syntax. I will try my best to answer the question that the hon. Member has raised.

The first question is that the person we are talking about is not an Indian national.

Secondly, the alleged crime—I am using legal language because proceedings are going on—took place on Canadian soil on 23rd June, 1985 at Vancouver. One plane was going across the Atlantic and the other across the Pacific and within 55 minutes of each other, the great tragedy took place, not too far away from the Irish coast. 329 people of Indian origin lost their lives and 55 minutes later, there was an explosion at Narita airport in Tokyo where two baggage leaders were killed.

It is on this charge that on the 5th of February 1988 when Reyat was going to his job at a Jaguar Car Plant in Coventry in England, he was stopped at a traffic barrier and told that he was being arrested on 8 Canadian charges relating to the Narita explosion. Now, we also know that Justice Kirpal's report has said that there could be a linkage. Yesterday, the extradition proceedings were to start in London. We are still awaiting reports. Once the extradition proceedings are over, he will be extradited to Canada. The Canadians are leaving no stone unturned neither with regard to Kanishka nor with regard to Narita. We are naturally very very concerned at the outcome of these proceedings and these deliberations. We are consistently in touch with the Canadian Govern-

ment and with the Government of U.K. Only on the 5th of February, the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister said and I quote : "With respect to the Air India Accident, it is still under very full investigation. I would hope that similar to the arrest of Reyat in connection with the Narita explosion, results might be forthcoming in the very near future."

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, he has not replied to my question specifically. The Canadian Police and the British Police know on whose names the luggage was loaded. The main target of the terrorists was that of Air India people. Such a serious evidence is there and 329 people were killed. There is coordination with all your investigations and all that. My question is that whether the Government is going to send some team atleast to find out the exact facts. The other people have already found out this. But atleast let them come before this House with facts, instead of just delaying this with procedural aspects, from going one State to another.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I have given the facts and we are fully aware of the facts. But this is a legal matter of which we in the Government, the Governments of U.K. and Canada are keeping ourselves informed. As soon as he is extradited and legal proceedings again starts in the Canadian Courts, more and more facts will come out. If it is proved incontrovertibly that he is the same person who planted the devices in the Planes going to Japan and the Plane going to London—the Air India Plane—then necessary action will be taken at that time by Government of India. If we are advised by our legal experts, certainly we will ask for an explanation. We are deeply interested as you are in justice being done in this case. The life of 329 people is no ordinary a matter.

Pakistan Demand for AWACS from USA

*204. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's renewed demand for AWACS