

Letting off Hijackers on Parole

† 1422. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that criminals convicted for the hijacking an aeroplane in the year 1984 were let off on parole;

(b) if so, whether their surety for good conduct was cancelled either before the hijacking, or after that;

(c) whether hijacking of plane has not received a boost due to releasing the hijackers on parole; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such an act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines Flight No. IC-421 which took off from Chandigarh (Delhi-Chandigarh-Jammu-Srinagar) with 86 passengers and crew members was hijacked on 24.8.1984 by seven Sikh extremists. Hijacking terminated nearly after 36 hours when the hijackers surrendered to UAE authorities on 25.8.1984. The hijackers were handed over to Indian authorities and they were lodged in Ajmer Jail. The CBI investigated the matter. On 12.4.1993, the Additional special court Judge, Ajmer awarded life imprisonment to all the 7 hijackers, namely, Kamal Jeet Singh, Amrendra Singh, Tajendra Singh, Devendra Singh, Avtar Singh, Surender Singh and Man Singh. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in CrI. M.P.No.2206 of 1996 in criminal Appeal No.475 of 1993 by Shri Kamal Jeet Sandhu and others ordered on 9.5.1996 that "having regard to the fact that the appellants have already been in Jail for almost 12 years, the request for parole shall be considered by the authorities sympathically". In pursuance, the seven hijackers were released on parole from 27.5.96 to 24.7.96 *vide* Government of Rajasthan's order dated 24.5.96, on a surety of Rs. twenty thousand and a personal bond each for faithful observance of the conditions specified in the Release warrant. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[8 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

India extended the parole period of two months *vide* their order dated 24.7.96 for a further period of three months on the surities already provided.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble supreme Court of India *vide* its order dated 3.10.1996 commuted the sentences of life imprisonment awarded to the hijackers to the imprisonment already undergone by the convicts.

(c) No Sir. Release of the accused was done after due process of law had been undergone.

(d) does not arise.

Murder of Orissa Trade Union Leader

1423. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has referred the murder case of Bichitha Mallick an INTUC leader for CBI inquiry; and

(b) whether CBI inquiry has been abnormally delayed and this has created great discontentment among all the organised workers in Paradeep Port, Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On receipt of the State Government's letter dated 28.2.2000, the matter has been taken up with the CBI.