

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Sir, may I just point out that the statement has already been made in the Lok Sabha on this issue.

If you would like to ask for the clarifications, may be they can be asked tomorrow, but I think that in keeping with the convention that in both the Houses the Statement should be made on the same day, I request that the Minister be permitted to make the Statement. If you would like to ask the clarifications tomorrow, then we can have the clarifications tomorrow. I think the House should have the Statement on the same day.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Clarifications tomorrow, but the Minister will read the statement now.

SHRI YASHWANT SENHA : But there is also a statement which is due. The Minister is reading on behalf of his colleague, the Civil Aviation Minister. In view of what has happened today, I think, another Statement is due from the Civil Aviation Minister. So, why one statement tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Let this matter be finished within two minutes.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Crash of Indian Airlines Plane at Aurangabad in Maharashtra

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Sir, with a very heavy heart I share a very sad information with the House that today at 1305 hours, IC-49, which is Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Bombay bound flight, took off from Aurangabad and immediately after take-off—one preliminary report has come—one of its engines is reported to have caught fire

and it crash-landed. It crashed at Aurangabad near the airfield carrying 112 passengers on board. (*Interruptions*) I am just sharing the information about the crash, not the hijack. The Statement on hijack I will make afterwards. I thought I should keep the House informed with whatever information we have received about the accident. The preliminary report, which has been received in the Civil Aviation Ministry is that six crew members and twelve passengers were immediately seen coming out of the accident site. And when the rescue operation started 40 dead bodies were recovered. This was round about 5 o'clock. The Civil Aviation Minister with the Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism, has rushed to Aurangabad and he will come back and will give further details to the House. I have also to say that if we get any immediate information, we will keep informing both the Houses—Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha—about the casualties.

In addition, on behalf of my colleague, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, I make a statement on the incident of 24th April, 1993, about the hijack of IC-427.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-427 Delhi—Srinagar on 24th April, 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Hon'ble members are aware of the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-427 on 24th April, 1993.

The flight took off from Delhi at 1357 hrs. for Srinagar. At 1443 hrs. a message was received by Air Traffic Control, Delhi, that the plane had been hijacked and was heading for Kabul. A passenger on board, who identified himself as Syed Salaudidin, claimed that he was carrying pistols and a hand grenade and demanded that the flight be taken to Kabul. Air Traffic Control of Lahore refused to permit the aircraft to enter Pakistan airspace. The aircraft ultimately landed at 1520 hrs. at Amritsar where the hijacker kept the entire crew and passengers hostage and demanded refuelling so that the aircraft may proceed to Kabul. 141 persons were on board;

126 passengers, 9 infants and 6 crew members.

The Crisis Management Group (CMG) at the Cabinet Secretariat and the Central Committee at Delhi Airport were activated and contact was established with Amritsar where the Deputy Commissioner and the Senior Superintendent of Police of the district had arrived and taken up negotiations. The Director General of Punjab Police was asked to proceed to Amritsar where he reached at about 1800 hrs. and took charge of negotiations.

There was prolonged negotiation with the hijacker but he remained adamant on his demand to take the plane to Kabul. The hijacker had also fired a warning shot which pierced through the body of the aircraft.

The CMG advised the negotiating group at Amritsar to continue negotiations with a view to wearing down the hijacker. The CMG also despatched National Security Guards (NSG) commandos to Adampur near Amritsar and then to Amritsar by helicopters.

Continued negotiations failed and the hijacker remained adamant even after being told that Kabul Airport was closed for the night and Pakistan Government had prohibited entry into their airspace. At around 2300 hrs. the hijacker gave a final ultimatum for refuelling the aircraft failing which he would blow it up. The CMG gave green signal to the NSG commandos and the negotiating group at Amritsar to storm the plane, leaving to their discretion the timing of the storming operation depending upon assessment of the ground situation.

Storming operation by NSG started at about 0100 hrs. on 25th April and in a few minutes the hijacking was terminated without any casualty or injury to any passenger or crew member; there was also no further damage to the aircraft. Sudden entry of the commandos into the aircraft, totally surprised and dazed the hijacker. As a late reaction, he tried to fire but before he could do so he was shot at with a silenced pistol by NSG commando, brought out in an injured state to the tarmac and

handed over to the local police. Director General of Punjab Police has reported that while the hijacker was being shifted to a vehicle by the local police, it was found that he had succumbed to the injury.

The identity of the hijacker has not yet been established. Two loaded 9mm pistols were recovered from his person.

Two criminal cases, one by Punjab Police and another by Delhi Police, have been registered under the relevant provisions of the Anti-hijacking Act, Indian Penal Code, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act. Investigation is in progress.

Preliminary assessment indicates security lapse at Delhi Airport. Delhi Police have suspended an Inspector and a Sub Inspector. Government have also instituted an inquiry by Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat to look into the security lapse, assess the extent thereof, fix responsibility for the lapse and recommend remedial measures. Meanwhile, security has been beefed up.

While full facts would come to light after completion of the inquiry and investigations by Police, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record Government's appreciation of the manner in which the Commander and the crew of the flight managed the contingency with patience. I would also like to compliment the passengers for having borne the agony of the hijack with fortitude and remaining calm throughout. I hope the House is pleased with the performance of the National Security Guards in carrying out a neat and swift operation by which the hijack was terminated and the passengers and crew members were saved of further harassment.

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक इन-फॉर्मेशन है कि फ्लाइट नं. 491 जोकि दिल्ली से जयपुर, जोधपुर, औरंगाबाद (स्वयंवाह)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : The Minister has already mentioned about it.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Honourable Members, I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 26th April, 1993, allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows :—

BUSINESS

TIME ALLOTTED

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills :—

- (a) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1990

1 Hour & 30 Mts.

- (b) The Central Law (Extension to Arunachal Pradesh) Bill, 1992.

30 Minutes

- (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1992.

30 Minutes

2. Consideration and return of the Cine Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

1 Hour

3. Introduction, consideration and passing of the following Bills :—

- (a) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

1 Hour & 30 Mts.

- (b) The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1993.

2 Hours

4. General Discussion on the General Budget for 1993-94.

8 Hours.

5. Discussing on the working of the following Ministries :—

- (a) Environment and Forests one day

- (b) Industry one day

- (c) Commerce one day

The Committee recommended that in order to complete the Government Business, the current Session of the Rajya Sabha be extended upto 14th May, 1993 and the House should accordingly sit from Monday the 10th May, 1993 to Friday, the 14th May, 1993. The Committee also recommended that there would be Question Hour during the extended period.

The Committee further recommended that the House should sit upto 6.00 P.M. daily and beyond 6.00 P.M. as and when necessary for the transaction of Government Legislative and other Business.

Now the House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty-nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 27th April, 1993.