

We support you and you want to divide the House? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY): One minute please. There are no two opinions on this matter among the Members of this House. I hope everybody will appreciate this. The Chair also associates with the feeling expressed and from the Treasury benches a very very responsible assurance has been given on the basis of which we can close this matter and proceed to the next item on the agenda. I hope the Minister will come out with a statement.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: The Minister's statement is partly justifying as if what is being done is a carry-over (*Interruptions*)

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): The point I want to make is that we have often heard about hijacking of aircraft, but we seem to have hijacked the discussion on the Aviation Ministry for so many days. Can we now please go on to it?

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I want to say something. It is not a question of this Government or that Government. The truth is, when I was a lecturer in a degree college, I was arrested from the college and thrown in a deep jungle. Elephants and tigers were there and I had to spend my days there without food, without shelter for one-and-a-half months. I am saying this because I was a sufferer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Are you justifying the action?

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: No, I just wanted to convey it.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Nobody is justifying. We are only sharing the pain. (*Interruptions*)

डा० अब्दुल अहमद खान : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस संबंध में कहना चाहता हूँ कि शांति प्रिय जो भी डेमन्स्ट्रेशन है, उसमें गिरफ्तारी वाली बात तो समझ में आती है, लेकिन जिस प्रकार से रोजाना लाठी से पीटा जा रहा है, लोगों को घायल किया जा रहा है, इसके बारे में तो गृह मंत्री आकर यहां बतायें कि यह संसद-सदस्यों के साथ क्यों किया जा रहा है, इसके पीछे क्या राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण है? संसद-सदस्यों को मारना, उनको घायल करना, लाठी बरसाना, बर्बरतापूर्ण व्यवहार करना यह सब क्या है?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, he is trying to provoke?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Please sit down.

डा० अब्दुल अहमद खान:***

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): This won't go on record.

Government's decision to lease out Airbus A-320 aircraft

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): I am happy that the Civil Aviation Minister is here when I am making my Special Mention. It is about some political game which is going on with the Airbus after the crash. I had stated in this House that the grounding of the Airbus was not a technical decision, not a flight-safety decision, but was definitely a political decision. They have gone one step further and the Government has decided to lease the 14 aircraft which have been grounded, and to sell four aircraft which are yet to be received. This aircraft is being handed before the verdict is given. The court of enquiry is yet to

[Shri Suresh Kalmadi]

submit its report. The voice recorder and the flight data recorder have been released not only to the Indian pilots but to all the Airlines of the world. No Airline has grounded its Airbuses on receiving this voice recorder and I think the Indian pilots too are now quite eager to fly the aircraft. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : Before I could reply you are speaking for the second time.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : I am speaking for the second time because after I spoke last time a new issue has come up.

Not only the voice recorder but their own DGCA has also given a certificate that the aircraft is "okay". These are their own certificates and in spite of that they are wanting to put the aircraft on lease. I can understand this after the court of enquiry. But you are taking this step before the verdict of the court of enquiry. I do not know, why. What is the motive ? They want to damn all the decisions taken by the previous Government. They want to give these aircraft on lease, I do not know why. What they are going to do in between ? What are they going to do for the air passengers in this country ? Have they got any other plans to lease some other aircraft ? We would like to know. Even if you want to give these aircraft on lease by inviting global tenders, it will take at least, according to my information, four months. I do not know why this Government has taken that step. I am sure in the course of the Minister's reply he would reply to this point. Why the Indian Airlines Board is being bamboozled into taking this decision after the Central Government has taken a decision ?

The official members are being forced to concur with the views of the Government. This is a very serious matter. I am sure the Minister would reply in the course of his reply.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, ...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the working of the Civil Aviation Ministry is under discussion and it is not yet completed. The Minister is yet to reply. In the course of the discussion many Members have expressed their opinions. Why the Ministry was so hasty in taking a decision to lease the aircraft ? At least they could have waited till the discussion was over. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Let me complete. I am asking about the propriety of the decision of the Government. When the discussion of the Ministry is on, why should they take such a decision ? They should have waited until the reply of the Minister.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, my name was called for special mention. I am sorry for yielding to him. ...*(Interruptions)*....

I associate with the special mention of Mr. Suresh Kalmadi regarding the leasing of A-320 aircraft by the Indian Airlines. I do not know whether the decision has been taken but there are press reports that the Government is inviting tenders to find out.*(Interruptions)*....

प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर (बिहार) : आपको क्यों नहीं बताया गया ? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : I am not the Government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : He always speaks the views of the Minister. How is it that he is now differing with him ?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, the Government has changed. The system of briefing party Members separately has also changed. The Government functions in its own way. Members of the House are all equal. I have my own views.(Interruptions).... If the Government has decided to lease this aircraft... I wish to place on record my heartiest congratulations to the Minister for taking a very prudent, sensible and economically sound step. Mr. Suresh Kalmadi has made two points. One is, the Indian Airlines Board has been bamboozled(Interruptions)....

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh) : He is not associating.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : He has taken permission from the Chair. That is why he is speaking. Please carry on. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka) : It is a sub-debate of the debate on Indian Airlines. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : Please be brief.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, I would be briefer than Mr. Kalmadi was. I am not extending the scope beyond what Mr. Kalmadi said. I do not know what is the objection. My views may be different from him but I thought dissent is the essence of this House. (Interruptions). My views are in conformity with what Mr. Kalmadi used to say. I do not want to take much time of the House. The earlier the Indian Airlines Board is superseded, so much better for the country. It is high time the Indian Airlines Board is sacked lock, stock and barrel. Number two, Mr. Kalmadi has said, the attempt is to hang the Airbus. Sir, I submit it is better to hang the Airbus than to hang the passengers. Thank you.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I remember that when Mr. Morarka took part in this discussion, he had suggested this and next day, I read it in the newspapers that the Government had already decided this and that had appeared in the press. I am saying either the news was leaked or it may be his personal view. Is it a coincidence or was the news leaked ? As I understand the four new Airbuses which are still to be delivered, you are going to sell them at a premium. That is what. I have read in the newspapers. It shows that no other airline will take it unless it is a very good aircraft. I would like to know, if the aircraft was not good, the price will be less. But what I have read in the newspapers is that it is going to be sold at a premium. If so, when the report has not been received as yet, why the Government is in a hurry in selling the aircraft which they are going to receive ?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, he has referred to my name. I may tell him that in my speech on the discussion of the Civil Aviation Ministry, I never talked of leasing. I talked of selling and I am very happy that in leasing, the option of retaining or selling is kept with the Government and it is a very brilliant idea. (Interruptions).

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : They are selling for aircrafts also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee—absent. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

Gang-rape of Bodo women

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, I was told my turn will come later. .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY) : I called your name earlier.