

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1981 to Starred Question 383 regarding income tax arrears ..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Statement by the Minister correcting the answer.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA (Bihar): Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't want to be interrupted. I am standing just now. Please sit down. When I stand, you do not stand.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): Sir in reply to Rajya Sabha starred question No. 383 answered on 17-3-1981, the names of 10 companies in the Public Sector and 174 companies in the Private Sector in each of which tax in arrears exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs were outstanding as on 31-3-1980 were furnished to the House in Annexure 'A' and 'B' to the statement laid on the Table of the House.

It has been brought to my notice that the names of seven companies, viz:

- (i) M/s Air India.
- (ii) M/s Sherwani Sugar Syndicate (P) Ltd.
- (iii) M/s Ramon and Demm Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. Dhrangadhra Chemical Works Ltd.
- (v) M/s. Singer Sewing Machine Co. Ltd.
- (vi) M/s. Indian Explosives Ltd., and
- (vii) Shree Madhusudan Mills Ltd.

appearing at Serial Number 8 of Annexure 'A' and at Serial Numbers 1, 41, 42, 90 132 and 136 of Annexure 'B' respectively in the lists have been wrongly included in the statement. The demand raised in respect of Air India had not fallen due for collection by 31-3-80 and the demand in respect of the other six companies had been stayed by the competent authority.

companies could not have been treated as one in which tax was in arrears. The names of these seven companies, therefore, need to be excluded from the lists furnished to the House.

Accordingly, Annexure 'A' and 'B' to the statement laid on the Table of the House may please be treated as amended to the extent indicated above.

In the course of replying to a supplementary question by Shri Ashwani Kumar about the exclusion of the names of banking companies in the annexed statement it had been stated, inter alia, that '...but it is understood that this question relates only to the industrial companies. Therefore, this answer was given.'

Now it has been found that the question related to all private and Government companies against whom Rs. 10 lakhs or more were outstanding and not merely to industrial companies. However, nothing in the reply to the supplementary question really turned upon this statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Damage to the Air India aircraft .. earmarked for the use of Prime Minister for her Foreign visit

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (GIANI ZAIL SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to inform the House of a certain serious development that has come to the notice of Government.

Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware that the Prime Minister is proposing to visit Switzerland, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates between the 5th and 13th of May, 1981. The Air India Boeing 707 aircraft No. VT DPM MAKALU was earmarked for the use of Prime Minister during her foreign visit. This is one of the aircrafts that is customarily used for carrying VVIPs when they travel abroad.

The Aircraft MAKALU returned to Bombay from ABU DHABI on the

working of the Ministries (Giani
Zail Singh)

15th April, 1981, The periodic inspection of category P. 3 started on the aircraft the same day in the AIR INDIA'S Hangers at Santa Cruz. On the 17th instant all the necessary control cables were inspected and were certified to be satisfactory except for one elevator cable which was found to be slightly frayed. A decision was accordingly taken to replace this cable and action for such replacement was taken on the 20th instant. On that day some further unnatural defects in the cable system came to notice. Thereafter an order was given for a re-inspection of all cable3 in the aircraft. The final check up showed that four vital cable systems namely those relating to elevator, rudder horizontal stablizer and rudder trim had been affected and that this could not have been due to normal causes but that they were intention-ly cut in a manner so as to ordinarily preclude detection.

A high level team of officers including technical personnel was deputed to make a preliminary enquiry and they have expressed the opinion that this is a clear case of attempted sabotage. If the mischief had not been fortunately detected in time, this, would have resulted in the crash of the aircraft, not immediately but after lapse of some time. The known fact that the aircraft would be used by the Prime Minister during iier visit leads to obvious and grave conclusions about the motivation of those who perpetrated this outrageous deed.

The AIR INDIA authorities have ledged a formal complaint with the CBI and matter is under investigation. The investigation will, no doubt, disclose all the details of what happened. I felt, however, that in a matte_r of such grave import, T should take the earliest opportunity to share with the Hon'ble Meml such information as is immediately available.

I am, sure, all sections of the House would join me in expressing

Irrigation and Rurn our strong
condemnation of this dastardly act aimed
at the Prime Minister's safety.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-
KARNI (Maharashtra): Sir..

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA (Orissa)- Sir

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) :
समापति महोदय, मैंने लिखित नोटिस
दिया है । आप उसके मुताबिक हो
बुलवाइये ।

MR. CHAIRMAN; I am speaking first.
You do not seem to realise that I may have to
say something too.

Hon. Members, it was ^{only} ^{as} night that I
learnt with great shock the news of this
intended sabotage of an aeroplane in which
our Prime Minister was to make a journey to
Geneva and other places in the next seven or
eight days.

We have just now heard the full account of
how it wag detected. It seems that if it had not
been detected, the life of our Prime Minister
and many others who would have accom-
panied her would have been exposed to grave
peril, if not death. It is something which
cannot but be condemned too strongly. I think
this is the most inhuman way of dealing with
things. And I think it would be very necessary
for our country to put a stop to this by
condemning it on all hands that this kind of
action against the Prime Minister, or anybody
for that matter, will not receive any tolerance
from any section of our people. We are a
civilized nation; we are not a nation of
murderers who begin to assassinate and shoot.
We should live above all these things and I
think we will have to enquire whether there are
not other elements involved in this conspiracy
which is so apparent. So many wires, so many
cables do not get cut automatically. There
must have been an attempt at sabotage, as the
hon. Minister has said, and I join him in
condemning this, and I

re-damage to A I aircraft

am very happy that it was detected in time so that the life of our Prime Minister and with her of many other persons who would have accompanied her, have been saved. I hope that the House will now condemn it roundly and very, very forcefully and I leave the matter in the hands of the different parties.

Mr. Kulkarni will come and fake the Chair. I have to go somewhere; that is why I am hurrying up.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : आपको तो रोज़
12 बजे जाना ही रहता है ।

श्री सभापति : क्या कल में ? मेरी
किस्मत ही ऐसी है; मुझे घर में, हाऊस
में बैठने को नहीं मिलता ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मैंने लिखित
नोटिस दिया है। क्लेरिफिकेशन के लिए
पूछा है ।

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Arviad Ganesh Kulkarni) in the Chair].

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, I associate myself with the feelings of the Home Minister and the chairman of the House on behalf of myself and on behalf of our party. The Prime Minister does not belong to the ruling party alone. She belongs to the country and the people. Therefore, this kind of outrageous action deserves to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. This is the land of Buddha; this is the land of Mahatma Gandhi. This country cannot tolerate any kind of violence, particularly on leaders who are in public life.

Sir, as the Home Minister has described, it is fortunate that this kind of intended sabotage had been detected and we hope and pray that this Government will take all possible care to see that the Prime Minister's

of Prime Minister life is not

in jeopardy. All possible tight security arrangements should be made on behalf of the Government. It should also be seen, because this particular Boeing aircraft was at the Santacruz Air- port, whether any of the Air. India officials who are working there—because without them, this kind of sabotage could not have taken place—were associated in this kind of action. Sir, I strongly condemn it and I am happy that this has been detected and from an impending peril, the Prime Minister has been saved.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, no civilized society can ever accept this sort of an action on the part of anybody. No amount of provocation can justify it. No amount of misdeeds can forgive an action of this nature.—Sabotage of this or any other type is a cowardly act and I hope that the Government takes every conceivable step to apprehend those who are responsible for it and punish them adequately.

I also hope that in this process we do not lose our own balance because in an act like this, one has a tendency to lose one's balance to go overboard and, therefore, to tighten the security of the Prime Minister to the extent where she becomes inaccessible to the people, I think, would be doing great harm not only to everybody concerned but also to our democracy. We should make every effort to see that nothing like this ever happens. We may have our differences with the Prime Minister, but we will deal with her politically and not in this fashion, I repeat that sabotage is an act of cowardice and those who have been coward enough to do this should be punished and I wish the Prime Minister long life and many years during which I can criticise her and oppose her with all the strength at my command. Thank you, Sir.

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर (महाराष्ट्र):

श्रीमान्, गृह मंत्री जी ने अभी जो निवेदन किया है मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें दो रायें नहीं हो सकती कि सेवोटेंज करने की कोशिश की गयी। उसकी निन्दा न सिर्फ यह सदन बल्कि देश का हर आदमी करेगा। यह सही है कि हिंसा का वातावरण, प्रतिशोध की भावना मुल्क में कुछ हद तक बढ़ रही है और यह सबके लिए चिन्ता की बात होनी चाहिए। जो घटनाएं हो रही हैं मुल्क में इन सब चीजों में उनके अंकुर, बीज मिलते हैं। इतना ही नहीं, मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पैमाने पर इस तरह के काम हो रहे हैं राजनैतिक उद्देश्यों के लिए और उन्होंने ऐसी शकल अख्तियार कर ली है कि उनको सही माना जा रहा है। हम समझते हैं कि यह बिलकुल गलत है। इसकी निन्दा हम करने हैं। लेकिन साथ-साथ मैं उम्मीद करूंगा कि गृह मंत्री जी यह भी कभी हमको बताने की कोशिश करेंगे कि इस तरह के हवाई जहाज जब प्रधान मंत्री के लिए इस्तेमाल किये जाते हैं, उनका रखरखाव और सोक्योरिटी की दृष्टि से उनका जो इन्तजाम होता है उसमें अगर कमी है तो उसका भी उनका सोचना चाहिए और उनके लिए कड़े उपाय करने चाहिए। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि इस घटना की तरफ राजनैतिक दृष्टि से नहीं देखा जायेगा। प्रधान मंत्री या जो शासक दल है उसके साथ जो हम लोगों के मतभेद हैं, लेकिन उसका निवेदन इन तरीकों से, इन उपायों से कतई हो नहीं सकता। इस पर शासक दल को भी विश्वास करना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस तरह का जो शर्मनाक कांड हुआ है उसकी निन्दा करते समय इन बात का भी खयाल हम सबको रखना चाहिए। देश के अन्दर जो हिंसा की, प्रतिशोध की, बदले की भावना बढ़

रही है उसको कम करने के लिये सब मिल कर क्या इलाज हम कर सकते हैं इसको भी सोचना जरूरी है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं जो भावनाएं गृह मंत्री जी ने व्यक्त कीं उनके साथ लोक दल की भावनाओं को भी सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जान्नाथ राव जोशी (दिल्ली): उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज प्रातः जब समाचार पढ़ा तो गहरी सा धक्का लगा। लेकिन साथ-साथ इस पर विचार भी किया। जिस हवाई जहाज में प्रधान मंत्री जैसे व्यक्ति सफर करते हैं उसमें गड़बड़ियां हैं वह ऐसे हो कैसे पता चला। जब प्रधान मंत्री या विशेष व्यक्ति सफर करते हैं तो थोड़ा सा भी संशय के लिए जगह नहीं रहनी चाहिए, इतनी सारी जांच होनी चाहिए। उसमें कुछ हो या न हो, जांच होनी हो चाहिए क्योंकि केवल व्यक्ति के जीवन का सवाल नहीं है, विशेष व्यक्ति का जीवन विशेष महत्व रखता है। इसलिए उसके बारे में जितनी सतर्कता से व्यवहार करें उतना अच्छा है। मैं केवल एक जानकारी चाहता हूँ। एक जहाज आबू धावी से, बाहर से आया, जो वायर वर्गमेंट निकाले गये उसके बारे में पता लगना चाहिए कि उसका क्या समय था, आपका जहाज बाहर भी जाता है। आपने कहा कि वो० आई० पी० के काम में आता है। इंडियन वो० आई० पी० हो या और भी० वो० आई० पी० क्योंकि केवल इंडियन के लिए वह काम आता हो ऐसा नहीं, और भी० वो० आई० पी० के लिए उसका इस्तेमाल हो सकता है या एयर इंडिया का जहाज है, इसलिए हम सतर्कता यहीं बरतें, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए, वह किसी भी भूमि पर हो, जब अपना जहाज है तो यह देखना चाहिए कि उसमें कोई बूटि न रहे। किसी को ऐसा सन्देह न हो, इसके बारे में हम सतर्क रहें।

भगवान की कृपा से समय रहते ही यह पता चल गया, लेकिन आगे के लिए सुरक्षा की ओर ज्यादा ध्यान दें। इस मामले में जो भी तथ्य आपके सामने आये हैं उनको बिना छिपाये दोषी व्यक्तियों को कड़ी-से-कड़ी सजा दें। सारा देश निन्दा करेगा इसमें कोई दो रायें नहीं हैं। व्यक्तिगत रूप से भी और दल की ओर से भी। कोई भी ऐसा कार्य हो उसमें हम विश्वास नहीं करते और न करेंगे। हम शान्तिप्रिय लोग हैं। हमारे आपस में मतभेद हैं और हो सकते हैं लेकिन उन पर खुले रूप में चर्चा होकर ही हम अपने मतलों को तय करते हैं और इसीलिये हमने यह रास्ता अपनाया हुआ है। जब कभी ऐसी कोई बात आ जाती है तो उसका गहराई के साथ पता लगायें और तथ्यों को सबके सामने रखें और उसके बाद सब मिलकर देखें कि ऐसी बात भविष्य में कभी न हों। मुझे याद आता है कि हमारे पुराने प्रधान मंत्री मोंगर जी अपना हवाई जहाज लेकर गये थे मिलिटरी का और उन्हें अपघात हो गया था। भगवान की कृपा से वह बच गये। तो जिस जहाज में विशेष व्यक्ति प्रवास करते हों उस की सुरक्षा का पूरा प्रबंध होना चाहिए चाहे यह हवाई जहाज एयर फोर्स का हो या एयर इंडिया का। तो उसकी सुरक्षा का पूरा प्रयास हो। समय रहते भगवान ने हमें चेतावनी दी है उसको हम ठीक तरह से समझ लें और मैं अपने दल के साथ इस बात की निन्दा करता हूँ और आगे ऐसा कभी न हो इस की प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

Mukherjee, had condemned it in the strongest terms. I take this opportunity to join my voice of the strongest condemnation of this attempt and only want to say that it is clear that there has been a conspiracy. It could not have been done by one person. There must have been a conspiracy, there is a conspiracy. I want the Government to go into the full ramifications of that conspiracy and see that all those people who are connected with that conspiracy are not allowed to go scot free; everyone of them is brought to book and given the punishment that is due to him.

With these words I join my voice of the stronger condemnation of this conspiracy.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, we strongly condemn¹ with all the force at our command this heinous attempt to blow up or sabotage the plane which our Prime Minister was going to take to Europe. What is worrying us more is that something is rotten somewhere; otherwise how this daring plan could have been worked out, in the sense, how it was possible to enter such a well-guarded plane—I do not know whether it was well guarded—to damage and cut the wires which would have led to its crash, it is a serious thing. It should not be underestimated and on this issue there is no difference between the ruling party and the opposition. The whole country is one for giving full protection to our Prime Minister. There are no two opinions about it. We would like to know from the Home Affairs Minister, what steps were taken for the security of the plane when it was not flying and when it was intended to be used by the Prime Minister, and how long will the CBI or any other agency take to find out all these things? This is a matter of serious concern. Lastly, while once again we condemn it, we wish her a very long life for the benefit of the country.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, yesterday when the Home Minister made the statement and revealed this ghastly attempt in the Lok Sabha, the leader of my party in Lok Sabha, Mr. Samar

SHRI V. GOJALASAMY (Tamil Nadu):
jyrr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with deep shock and
sorrow I, on behalf of the DMK Party and
also on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu,
express my grave concern and also condemn
in unequivocal terms the attempted sabotage
of the aircraft which was earmarked for the
use of our hon. Prime Minister. First, I pay
my tributes to the officials and technicians
who have detected the tampering of the cables
and have thus saved our country from a great
danger about which we shudder to think. In
this connection, I would like to urge upon the
Government to provide all security measure_s,
and tighten all security measures to protect
the life of our prime Minister, the leader of
the nation who is the custodian of the lives of
70 crore_s of Indians. The criminals, the
traitors who have conspired, who have initia-
ted and who have carried out this sabotage
should be dealt w_{ith} s_{eyere}-ly. They should b_e
punished. I associate myself with the views
expressed by m_y friend Mr. Ramamurti, that
this cannot be an isolated act of an individual.
I doubt that there must be a conspiracy. Any
force—either internal or external—which j_s
found involved in this sinister, diabolical
design should be exposed to the country and
also should be taken to task. I wish long life
to our Prime Minister.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRA-
BORTY (West Bengal): On behalf of my
party, the Forward Bloc, I strongly condemn
thi_s cowardly act. At the same time i also
want to add that *it* seems to be a conspiracy:
otherwise i_{ght} days before the actual flight,
how could this coward get a chance to cut the
cable_s in such a way that there is a likelihood
of there being an accident? So I think the
security must be tightened and strong steps
should be taken i_n this regard. We strongly
condemn this dastardly act which was
attempted by this

fiend all those people against the Pirm_e
Minister.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-
CHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-
Chairman, Sir, it goes without saying that I
i_n my voice on behalf of my party in
condemning thi_s dastardly, what I should call,
a conspiracy. The crime has been unearthed
in time and I must thank the Home Minister
that he has taken the entire nation through
Parliament into confidence on this matter. It
should be our endeavour to try by all means
to make individual terrorism or such
dastardly acts alien to our political system. At
the same time, j would urge upon the Home
Minister that it is not enough to entrust the
CBI with the enquiry. The record of th_e CBI
in unearthing many mysteries has not been so
successful. This is one occasion where the
source of the conspiracy must be unearthed
and the identity of those involved must be
revealed to the entire country and they should
be brought to book. Unless that is done, we
will not be able to say that we have done
what is our repsonsibility to do. Thank you.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil
Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, it is with
great sincerity and not for the sake of record
that on behalf of the All-India ADMK w_e
express our deepest regrets and are also really
thankful to God for this timely detection of an
act which has been rightly described as
dastardly.

Sir, i would urge upon the Home Minister
and also hon'ble Mr. Sharma who is present
here to reward the Air-India officials. Thi_s
also reveals our national character—that for
every one bad man, ther_e are ten good men
who are there t_o detect and see that this sort
of crimes are not perpetrated.

One thing more I want t_o say. Today we
find the world over politics of violence is
there. You see the

attempt on President Reagan's life. This has got to be eschewed. India being a *dharmik* nation, I am sure the nation will rise as one to condemn this act. I pray to God for the long life of our Prime Minister.

श्री बृद्ध मिथ जोय (आंध्र प्रदेश) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय इंदिरा जी इस देश की प्रधान मंत्री ही नहीं है इस राष्ट्र की सर्वश्रेष्ठ नेता भी है और ऐसी शक्ति हैं जो भारतवर्ष को एकता के बन्धन में बांधे हुए हैं। युद्धों की ज्वाला हमारे दरवाजे तक आ पहुंची है और हिंसा का वातावरण देश और विदेश में है। ऐसी परिस्थितियों में मैं केवल दो तीन सुझाव देना चाहूंगा। पहली बात तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि बम्बई जैसी जगह पर यह जहाज क्यों छोड़ा गया? कौन अधिकारी थे जिन्होंने यह फैसला लिया कि यह जहाज बम्बई में छोड़ा जाये? बताया इसके कि दिल्ली में टैक्निशियनों की नजर में यह जहाज रखा जाता, यह जहाज बम्बई में क्यों रखा गया? हमेशा से इस प्रकार के जहाज दिल्ली में ही रखे जाते रहे हैं। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इसके अन्दर अगर किसी विदेशी का हाथ है तो यह किसी बहुत ही टैक्निकल हैन्ड का हाथ हो सकता है और अगर देश के किसी व्यक्ति का हाथ है तो वह भी बहुत ही टैक्निकल हैन्ड का हाथ हो सकता है। दोनों स्थितियों में यह कुछ गिने चुने लोगों का ही काम हो सकता है। इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि ऐसी स्थिति में मुलजिम्हों को पकड़ना कोई बड़ी बात नहीं होगी। यह बहुत ही टैक्निकल काम है जो कि कुछ गिने चुने लोग ही कर सकते हैं। इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि विदेशों में जहां जहां भी प्रधान मंत्री जा रही हैं और भविष्य में जहां भी जाएंगी वहां

पर हमारी एक हाई पावर विजिलेन्स टीम पहले से ही भेज दी जाये। दो-चार अफसरों की टीम नहीं, बल्कि एक हाई पावर विजिलेन्स टीम भेजी जाए। प्रधान मंत्री जी विदेशों में उहां भी जायें वह पर पहले से ही गुप्तचर विभाग के हाई अफिशियल्स की टीम पहुंच जाये। दूसरी बात मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री के इस्तेमाल के लिए जो जहाज इस्तेमाल किया जाता है वह बहुत पुराना हो चुका है। ऐसी स्थिति में क्या भारत सरकार यह सोचेगी कि एक बहुत ही आधुनिक तरीके के जहाज की व्यवस्था प्रधान मंत्री के लिए की जाये? इन शब्दों के साथ शोषित समाज का एक व्यक्ति होने के नाते मैं महमूस करता हूँ कि यह एक बहुत बड़ा प्रकोप और एक बहुत बड़ा पड़यंत्र था जो कि माननीय इंदिरा जी की हत्या करने के लिए किया गया था। उस से यह देश और हमारी नेता बचाली गई है। इसके लिए हम उन विशेषज्ञों के अत्यन्त आभारी हैं जिन्होंने इस कमी को पकड़ लिया है।

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL (Jammu and Kashmir); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I share the sentiments of the Members of this House and firstly congratulate the author! • tie, „who have detected the sabotage in time so that the life of the great leader of this country is saved. The question is, that as far as our democracy is concerned, it is a free society, but freedom does not mean that we can afford to be complacent, especially in such matters where the life of that great leader is involved. The sabotage is detected, no doubt. But the other day—there was a news that some hijackers had stopped over in Delhi and other places. Such permission, such freedom, such licence should not be afforded to all such persons and security measures should

[Shri Gulam Mohi-Ud-Din Shawl.]

be tightened in all respects so that such things are not repeated. We have a sigh of relief that it was detected in time. We congratulate them but, at the same time, we expect more vigilance on behalf of the authorities. But, as far as the culprits are concerned, the very act of sabotage is condemnable. Words are not strong enough to condemn it. But we would expect that security measures shall be tightened and more vigilance will be exercised.

I, on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the National Conference share the views and sentiments of this House and thank God that they have been able to save the life of our great leader. Thank you.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam) j Mr. Vice-Chairman, sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by my friends in strongly condemning this dastardly attempt on the life of our prime Minister. Politics of violence is alien to our culture and thinking. What makes us most apprehensive is that this is not an act by an individual maniac. An attempt on a plane of this nature, when one has to cut equipment of sophisticated nature, can be done when one has thorough knowledge of a plane of this nature and, therefore, the person must be technically very knowledgeable and equipped. And that proves the point that it seems to be a conspiracy by a group of persons who have intimate knowledge of such sophisticated weapons. And it also makes us apprehensive as to how the wires of a plane were cut when it was under the custody of Air India. The possibility cannot be ruled out that there are people inside Air India who have played some part, direct or indirect, in the nature of the incident that has happened. Therefore, I think that the Government of India has a greater responsibility to see, to locate, to find out those persons. Sir, while joining with my friends in wishing a very prosperous life to the Prime Minister I do hope

that within a very short period the Government will be able to detect the culprits behind it and will adequately punish them.

PROF. RASHEEDUDDIN KHAN (Nominated). Sir, while the act has been unanimously condemned, I would like to add that there are two aspects of the matter which one should look into. The first is the environment of increasing sabotage and violence in different parts of the world. Especially in the democratic system of ours, we are exposed to a sort of inefficiency on one side and organised sabotage on the other about which we have to be vigilant. Of course, as was rightly pointed out, there is no need for us to become scared and save the Prime Minister from exposing herself to the public life and the public adulation. That would be very sad if the conclusion drawn is that the Prime Minister be put into the ivory tower. I would like to say that all our installations are, however, open and one might think it is very difficult to rule out the infiltration of some technically knowledgeable persons who know the art of sophisticated sabotage. This has to be kept in mind and I would suggest that we should look into the possibility of making an Indian Air Force plane available to the Prime Minister. Why should a commercial plane be available to the Prime Minister? After all, on one side, they are talking of the stability of the country. I would like to add as a non-party man that the stability of this country is largely dependent on a person of eminence and vision because, as was rightly pointed out by others, Mrs. Gandhi is not only the leader of the party but is also the national leader. Sometimes I shudder to imagine what would happen if by an accident such a person is removed. The whole development process of this country, the whole stability of the country is at stake. When that is so, when the commercial aeroplanes are exposed to certain vagaries, which it will be very difficult to control in an open

society like ours, an Indian Air Force plane should be available to the Prime Minister and other VVIPs. I think the cost will have to be worked out. My own impression is that after all in other countries also the Air Force planes are made available. Prime Minister's life, continuation of stability and also avoidance of violence are all very important. I would urge upon the Home Minister and the Government of India to examine the feasibility of not allowing the Prime Minister to go any more in a commercial plane but in an Indian Air Force plane.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): sir, I join my colleagues in condemning the nefarious attempt at sabotage which damaged the aircraft which was to carry the Prime Minister on tour abroad. Sir, this is an occasion when we come openly in condemning this type of activities, which reflects the tradition and culture which we inherited. We may have difference of views on many other issues. But in condemning violence and in creating an atmosphere where every view-point, every idea and every thinking can find its proper place, all of us are trying to create that situation.

Unfortunately not only in this subcontinent but in many parts of the world some sort of cult of violence is not merely preached but given recognition and added prestige. It is true that from the administrative point of view, the security measures are to be strengthened and more vigilance is needed. But what is more needed is to create an atmosphere where the cult of violence would not have any sanction, any respectability, but on the other hand would receive universal condemnation. I am really grateful to the hon. Members who have made their observations condemning the incident with one voice, and in fact it is spontaneous. Yesterday, when it was placed on the floor of

the other House when we were not in session, every Member who was present there, representing the various political parties, came forward and condemned this type of actions unanimously. I share with the hon. Members their feelings and wish a long, happy and prosperous life for the Prime Minister.

I can assure the hon. Members and I have no doubt that the Home Minister has noted the many useful suggestions made by the hon. Members apart from expressing their concern. The investigation is going on. It would be possible for us to identify the culprits, and the law will take its own course of action. But for the future safety and security many other suggestions have been made. No doubt Government will act on them.

Once again I do join and share the concern expressed by all the Members present here. As the Chairman has already expressed his concern, I do not know whether you will reflect the views of the whole House by summing up. We are really grateful to God that ultimately the sabotage has been detected, otherwise much greater harm could have happened. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Before moving to the next item on the agenda, I join the House in praying to God to spare long life for the Prime Minister to lead this country, not only this country but the world, because she is not only the leader of this country, but she is a world leader whose guidance is necessary to the world. If you want peace on earth, it is I think Mrs. Indira Gandhi who has got a larger say in counselling, and I do hope that the House will join me in wishing a long life to the Prime Minister.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):