

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is now four years. May I know why no action has been taken by Rajasthan? Is it because of financial stringency in that State?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: As the hon. Member is aware, under the Federal Financial Integration Agreements, these duties have to be abolished by the end of 1953-54 in the case of Hyderabad, and by the end of 1954-55 in the other States. Therefore, so far as Rajasthan is concerned, there is still time for them to abolish these duties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

NIGHT AIRMAIL PLANE CRASH AT NAGPUR

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for many hours after the recent night airmail plane crash at Nagpur no medical aid was made available to the people who were injured in the accident;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on the day following the accident, no doctor was available in the hospital to issue certificates in respect of the dead; and

(c) whether the plane was inspected before it took off and had got the airworthiness certificate?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): This short notice question comes rather late. On the 18th we had given an answer to a short notice question and we were under the impression that this question was also covered by that but I am giving a reply to this.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I interrupt to say that the hon. Minister also is asked for his consent before a short notice question is admitted?

Therefore, it is not proper for the hon. Minister to introduce his answer in that manner. If he had chosen, he need not have replied.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: That was not my point. I thought these were covered by the supplementaries to that short notice question. There is no question of excuse. This short notice question comes rather late.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Give a late answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, your presence is noted.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: (a) No, Sir. The Aerodrome Officer, immediately after the crash, alerted the hospital authorities and himself rushed to the site of the accident, reaching there within 20 to 25 minutes. The pilot of the aircraft who was the only survivor was removed to the hospital without delay and given medical aid there.

(b) The hospital doctors were available in the hospital. The issue of certificates in respect of corpses involves the completion of certain legal formalities. So far as it has been possible to ascertain there was no avoidable delay in completing the formalities and handing over the corpses to the relatives, etc. of the dead.

(c) The last daily inspection of the aircraft valid for 24 hours was carried out at 2200 hours on the 11th December 1953. The aircraft had a current certificate of airworthiness.

PROF. G. RANGA: Was it necessary or is it necessary even now that the airworthiness certificate should be given on every trip that it makes and at every airways station where it stops for one hour or half an hour?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No, not for one or half an hour. It is for 24 hours and that certificate was given.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is no effort made specially in regard to the night air services to check up in regard to the engines, etc. at Nagpur where every plane stops for at least one hour?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Usually every aircraft is tested for 24 hours. Whether it is necessary to check it at Nagpur or not, I will get it examined, and, if necessary, I will introduce it.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Is it not a fact that at Nagpur the checker checked the plane and he found that it was all right but immediately after taking off, within one minute of taking off, the accident took place?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is a fact that the accident took place immediately after the take-off.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Was it the fault of the pilot or of the checker?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: It is not yet known.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I cannot say anything on that point. The Court of Enquiry has been sitting and they are proceeding with the enquiry.

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : क्या यह सच है कि जव कर्नल जैदी हवाई जहाज को लेकर दूसरे दिन लाश लेने को गये तो उस वक्त अस्पताल में कोई डाक्टर नहीं था । जब एस० पी० (S. P.) को टेलीफोन (telephone) किया गया, तो मालूम हुआ कि वह क्रिकेट मैच (cricket match) देखने गये थे और जब कलेक्टर (Collector) को टेलीफोन किया गया तो मालूम हुआ कि वे साहब सो रहे थे ?

†[SHRI N. S. CHAUHAN: Is it a fact that when Col. Zaidi went there on the following day, by air, to take possession of the dead body, no doctor was present in the hospital? Is it also a fact that when he telephoned to the Superintendent of Police and the Collector, he was informed that the former had gone to witness a cricket match and the latter was sleeping?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैं कह सकता हूँ कि बान ऐसी नहीं है । अभी हमारे पास मेडीकल कालेज (Medical College) के डीन (Dean) से इन्क्वायरी (enquiry) करने पर जो खबर आई, उसमें मालूम हुआ कि वहाँ पर डाक्टर मौजूद था ।

†[SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I can say it is not so. According to the information we have received on enquiry from the Dean of the Medical College, we understand that the doctor was present there.]

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the hon. Minister aware of some news appearing in this morning's newspaper about the pilot having told the Radio Officer that even while taking off, the left engine was not working and the right engine caught fire immediately thereafter, and the plane crashed?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I cannot add anything to what has appeared in the press. I am not in a position to add anything or express any opinion on the evidence that the Court of Enquiry is taking and that has appeared in the press.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the hon. Minister make it a point to investigate whether what has appeared in this morning's paper is true or not?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is the Court of Enquiry which is taking the evidence and after taking the evidence the Court of Enquiry will submit the report. At this stage it is not open to Government and not desirable to find out whether what has appeared as evidence is correct or not.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: Taking of evidence apart, what interim arrangements are being made to safeguard the lives of passengers who travel by air?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We take all possible precautions to test the aircraft and do the repairs, etc. As

a matter of fact every aircraft is supposed to be quite repaired and made airworthy after every flight. So we are taking all possible precautions that we can and you don't suppose that we tolerate any laxity on the part of any person in this matter.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are Government considering the possibility of introducing third party insurance so that those who come to grief, unfortunately, on these flights may be paid some compensation, whether they themselves go the trouble of insuring themselves separately or not?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Even before this unfortunate accident took place I had suggested to the Corporation to examine the possibility of insuring every passenger who travels by air.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: The hon. Minister said that the aircraft had 24 hours certificate. Is it not possible for Government to arrange issue of certificates at every station when the aircraft leave any air-field?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I don't think that is necessary but as I have said it is for technical people to advise and if they say it is indispensable, that may be done.

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : क्या माननीय मंत्री ने कर्नल जूदी से, जो दूसरे हाउस (house) के एक माननीय सदस्य हैं, कुछ इस बारे में मालूम किया है कि जब उन्होंने एम० पी० और कलक्टर को टेलीफोन किया था, तो उसका उन्हें क्या उत्तर मिला था ?

†[SHRI N. S. CHAUHAN: Has the hon. Minister enquired of Col. Zaidi, who is an hon. Member of the other House, as to what replies he received when he telephoned to the Superintendent of Police and the Collector?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैं इस मामले को देखूंगा। लेकिन अभी जो हमारे पास जानकारी है, यानी जो रिपोर्ट मेडीकल

†English translation.

कालेज से आई है, उससे मालूम हुआ कि ऐसी कोई चीज नहीं है।

†[SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I shall look into the matter. But the information we have received so far, that is, the report which has been received from the Medical College, shows that it is not a fact.]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GUN CARRIAGE FACTORY, JABALPORE

‡*265-A. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from or on behalf of the employees of the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the complaints made in these representations; and

(c) what action has been taken on these representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate mainly to the conditions of service and improvements in the existing housing and medical facilities of the factory workers.

(c) Most of the complaints are of a general nature on which immediate action cannot be taken. The several points raised are, however, being examined and appropriate action will be taken, wherever necessary.

†English Translation.

‡Postponed from the 21st December 1953.