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Title: Need to provide night landing facility in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Thank you very much, Hon. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue which is alarming in my constituency, Lakshadweep. On the last Sunday, the 13th March, 2016, at around 4.30 p.m., the Chairperson of Agati Village Panchayat, Shri Mohammed Nazar has called me up for an emergency situation concerning a lady named Salina. She has been airlifted from my native place, Andrott for expert treatment to Agati Island in the Rajiv Gandhi Speciality Hospital. After taking her to that hospital, after carrying out a thorough examination by CT scan, it was learnt that it was internal bleeding due to hypertension and that hospital was not in a position to treat her. They insisted that the patient should be immediately airlifted for further treatment in Kochi. By that time it was five o'clock and the pilots, who were flying Pawan Hans helicopter which is meant for medical emergency evacuation to Kochi, were not in a position to fly as the rule says that if the destination is not reachable by sunset, the helicopter is not supposed to fly. In that situation, I was left out with no option other than talking to the hon. Defence Minister for his help to instruct either the Navy or Coast Guard to provide helicopter to lift this patient. I am thankful to the hon. Minister that he has extended all the help. But unfortunately, I got a call at around 9.30 p.m. in the night from Rear Admiral Phillipose saying that they were not in a position to come and land in Agatti because there is no night landing facility available in Agatti. This patient was in a very critical condition and if she was not evacuated immediately, it was sure that she would die. So, we were praying to the God the entire night that God should show mercy so that she can be airlifted to Kochi at least the next morning.

Sir, the issue is, the Home Ministry had taken a meeting with the Navy and the Pawan Hans to make night landing facility available in Lakshadweep.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude now. I am calling the next Member. In 'Zero Hour', you should not take more than two minutes. You should make your submission very briefly.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Sir, it is a very important issue. I am concluding. Please allow me.

Sir, this matter of providing night landing facility in Lakshadweep is pending before the Home Ministry. I met the hon. Prime Minister also regarding this matter. So far nothing has been done in this regard. This is a very alarming situation. Therefore, I request that the night landing facility is provided at the earliest.

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Manoj Rajoria and

Shri Rajeev Satav are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Mohammed Faizal.