

18.23 hrs.

STATEMENT ON CRASH OF AN
INDIAN AIR FORCE PLANE NEAR
BAREILLY IN U.P.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, with deep regret, I inform
the House about a tragic accident involving
an Indian Air Force aircraft which resulted
in loss of civilian lives and damage to
properties.

On 9th April, 1985, Flight Lieutenant
R.S. Sodhi, while on a routine training
flight from the Air Force Base at Bareilly,
experienced hydraulic failure of the main
hydraulic system approximately 10 minutes
after take-off. The Pilot immediately
turned the aircraft towards the airfield in
order to return and land at the base.
During this stage, the booster hydraulic
system also failed resulting in loss of control.
At that time, the Pilot was approximately
900 metres above the ground and the aircraft
had assumed a nose-up attitude with the
right wing coming down. The Pilot attempted
to control the aircraft; but getting no
response, ejected.

The aircraft descended and crashed on
the edge of village RAMPURAMAFI into
a group of huts. It broke into pieces and
caught fire. Ten civilians were killed on
the spot and another ten injured. The
dead and the injured were rescued from the
wreckage and the injured taken to the
hospital where five of them later succumbed
to their injuries.

The Chief of the Air Staff rushed to the
site of the accident the same evening. This
morning I have also visited the site as well
as the District hospital where the five

injured people are undergoing treatment,
mainly for burns. Except for one case
where the burns are reported to be severe,
others are progressing satisfactorily. I
also met the Pilot in the local Military
Hospital. He is under the observation for
injuries.

Apart from the loss of life, eight houses
were destroyed and twelve heads of cattle
killed. According to a preliminary
estimates, the loss of civilian property,
cattle and household effects is of the order
of one lakh.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to
investigate into the circumstances and
causes of the accident.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has
announced an ex-gratia payment of Rupees
five thousand to the next of kin of each
person killed and Rupees One thousands to
each person injured during the accident.
Government of India has announced an ex-
gratia relief of Rupees ten thousand to
the next of kin of each person killed, and
Rs. two thousand to each person injured
during the accident. The Prime Minister
has also been pleased to release a sum of
Rs. one lakh from the Prime Minister's
Relief Fund to provide relief to those who
have suffered loss or damage to their
property, cattle and household effects.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands
adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at
11 A.M.

18.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April
11, 1985/Chaitra 21, 1907 (Saka).*