

*At this State, Shri C. Janga Reddy Left the  
House*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE  
(Jadavpur): In West Bengal one Minister has  
resigned. It is a serious matter. The Govern-  
ment should appoint a commission... *(Inter-  
rptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Innocent  
people are being harassed and there is no  
response whatsoever from the Government.  
I am sure our hon. friend will let the Home  
Minister respond to us.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):  
Please ask the Home Minister to make a  
statement Sir. People must be assured that  
all steps are being taken for their safety.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banatwalla, this is  
a question, I think, which pains the mind of  
every sane person. I think this is a blot on our  
fair name that we still fight in the name of  
religion. This is very bad. I do not like it. Not  
only the Home Minister but we should all  
try...

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken the deci-  
sion, I myself am perturbed about it. I have  
already allowed a discussion on it. We will do  
it, don't worry.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Ask the  
Government make a statement.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The dis-  
cussion should be held at the earliest oppor-  
tunity. There is no response from the Gov-  
ernment immediately and we have to walk  
out because there is no other choice left to  
us.

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: There is no  
statement from the Government itself. When  
you will take up the discussion, one does not  
know.

*Shri G.M. Banatwalla and Some other  
Hon. Members then Left the House*

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT  
(Manjeri): When will he make the statement  
Sir?

12.16 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you make a state-  
ment?

STATEMENT RE: CRASHING OF AN IN-  
DIAN AIRLINES AIRCRAFT AT AHME-  
DABAD AND A VAYUDOOT AIRCRAFT  
NEAR GUWAHATI ON 19TH OCTOBER,  
1988

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(S. BUTA SINGH): When you allow the dis-  
cussion, I will come forward with the state-  
ment.

*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It should be  
done today itself. What do you mean by  
postponing.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND  
TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir,  
as the House is aware, two accidents involv-  
ing Indian civil aircraft took place on  
19.10.88. We share the grief of the family  
members and friends of the deceased. The  
brief particulars of the accidents are as fol-  
lows:

Ham ne mana ki taghaful na karoge lakin  
khak ho Jayenge Hum, tum ko khabar  
hone tak

[Sh. Shivraj V. Patil]

An Indian Airlines B-737 aircraft VT-EAH was operating a scheduled passenger flight IC-113 from Bombay to Ahmedabad with 135 persons on board (124 passengers + 5 infants + 6 crew members). The aircraft was commanded by Capt. O.M. Daiaya with Capt. D. Nagpal as co-pilot. It took off from Bombay at 0605 hours and reported overhead Ahmedabad at about 0650 hours. While on the final approach at a distance of about 4 kms. from runway 23, it crashed into the ground. Prior to impact, the aircraft hit three trees. Almost the entire aircraft was burnt. 130 occupants died and 5 received serious injuries. I am informed today that one of the injured persons has expired. The last transmission from the aircraft was about 2 minutes prior to the crash when it reported turning inbound. No emergency had been reported by the aircraft. Airport and City Fire Services reached the site and rendered assistance. The Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) have been recovered).

Immediately after hearing the news, Indian Airlines set up special cells in Bombay, Delhi and Ahmedabad to assist the relatives of the victims. 121 bodies were identified and delivered to relatives at Delhi, Bombay and Ahmedabad. The rest were cremated/buried in a combined religious service on 23.10.88. Arrangements were made with the assistance of the Indian Air Force to transfer the bodies to Bombay and other destinations. Indian Airlines has been instructed to arrange for payment of compensation as soon as possible.

Indian Airlines is also making every effort to ensure that the 5 surviving passengers are given all medical and other assistance. The relatives of the survivors have been informed that in case they require transfer to a private hospital in Bombay/Delhi or any other place or if they need medical specialists, Indian Airlines would make necessary arrangements.

Government has appointed a Court of Inquiry headed by Shri Ashok Mathur, a

Judge of the Rajasthan High Court. The Court will be assisted by three assessors who are experts in their field. They are S/Shri J.K. Mehra, K.B. Ganesan and Wg. Commander R.P.S.Garcha.

While details about this accident were coming in, another report was received at about 10 A.M. on the same day that an F-27 aircraft VT-DMC of Vayudoot which had left Silchar for Guwahati at 0808 hours to operate flight No. PF-704, had lost radio contact with Air Traffic Control, Guwahati after approximately 8.50 A.M.

It was commanded by Capt. B.S. Bhogal with Capt. K.R. Reddy as Co-Pilot. Search by Air Force helicopters later in the afternoon confirmed that the aircraft had crashed in the hills near village Noonmati in Assam. The aircraft had 34 persons on board. All of them were killed in the accident. Since the accident took place in hilly terrain, access to the site was extremely difficult. Finally, with the help of Police, Army, Indian Air Force and local people, the rescue team reached the spot. Two helicopters were pressed into service for establishing communication and carrying bodies. All the 34 bodies were recovered. 30 were handed over to the relatives and 4 were buried. Vayudoot opened four Control Rooms at Delhi, Calcutta, Guwahati and Silchar. These Control Rooms were manned by Senior officers to provide all assistance to family members of the ill-fated passengers.

Government has also appointed a Court of Inquiry to be headed by Justice Umesh Banerjee of Calcutta High Court to investigate into the accident. He will be assisted by three assessors who are technical experts in the field. These assessors are S/Shri J.D. Jejina, a former Regional Director, employee of Indian Airlines, V. Chellapa, former Director of Air Safety, Civil Aviation Deptt. and Capt. N.K. Dawar, Director Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, the Minister should also react on the undeclared strike in Air India. Hundreds of passengers

are stranded Trivandrum airport. Air India have indiscriminately cancelled a number of flights and many Keralites working in Gulf countries have lost their jobs because they could not reach in time.

The Minister should take immediate action and ensure that the flights are restored.

SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am sorry that some of the passengers are put to inconvenience. Some of the people in the Air India have started working to rule and because of that some difficulties have arisen. We are talking to them. And I hope that we would be able to find some solution. (*Interruptions*) This is the situation. I hope the hon. Members will bear with us. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You take up with the concerned Embassies and ensure that jobs are restored to these people.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): I want to place on record the appreciation of the people of Ahmedabad for the quick response given by the Prime Minister and the Civil Aviation Minister to the tragic situation. However, there are ramifications of the situation and a discussion may be held.

12.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (I) Demand for proper preservation of historical places and antiquities, especially those found in Moradabad district

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the culture of India is not only ancient but also interesting. Indian civilization and culture been a part of the world civilization. Civilization is linked with the historical antiquities found in old cities. Besides, a number of buildings of

ancient times are there in the various parts of the country which tell us of their contemporary civilization, culture and technology and as to how the foreigners came to settle down here and became a part of Indian civilization and culture.

2.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A number of ancient buildings and archaeological remains are there in Azampur, district Moradabad (U.P.) It is a place where some antiquities of the times of the Emperor Akbar have been found and it has also come to light that great personalities of that time like Abul Fazal and M.S. Jaizie received their education there. These buildings including the tomb of Sheikh Abdul Ghafoor and other tombs, a mosque, etc. were taken over by the Central Archaeological Department 10 years ago. It is a matter of regret that these buildings are getting damaged continuously and are not being maintained properly. In this connection attention of the Archaeological Department has been drawn many times, but the Agra Circle has not taken any step in this regard. Funds allotted for these buildings last year have been spent for other purposes.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to pay special attention towards these historical buildings especially those situated in Moradabad district of U.P. and to make full arrangements for their maintenance.

[*English*]

- (II) Demand for resolving the problems of agitating dock workers at New Mangalore Port

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Sir, the continued go-slow and work-to-rule agitation including strikes by listed dock workers at New Mangalore Port has badly affected cargo-handling operations and the matter had taken a serious turn when export cargo of 250 tonnes of cashew shell liquid