

[Smt Pratibha Devisingh]

[Translation]

rasin The basic price was formerly Rs 25 per kg and now after the Budget it is Rs 26 per kg. The rate of excise, which was at Rs 46, is now Rs 35. But ultimately, it has helped the large industries. The small industries use this project as their raw material. For them, the basic price was Rs 56.28 and it is same after the Budget also. But so far as the rate of excise is concerned, from 17.25 per cent it has been increased to 20 per cent. Now they will have to purchase the raw material at a higher price and these are all small industries. So, that should also be neglected.

As we have a Sub-Committee on Industries, we will be putting forth our views there. This is only one example.

I think you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

16.19hrs

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**(ii) Crash of Indian Airlines Flight I C 491 at Aurangabad**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) Sir, with a very heavy heart I have to share a very sad information in the House that to day at 13.05 hours Flight I C 491 crashed immediately after taken out from Aurangabad. It is the Flight which goes Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Bombay. After took off within few minutes the preliminary report says that one of the engines reported to have caught fire and it turned back, tried to land and crashed. As per the information available now, six crew members and 12 passengers reported alive and other casualties are in the operation of recovery. The information at 14.40 hours was that at least 40 people have died. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) The figure that has come on the teleprinter is 112, the newsmen already know it. (Interruptions) How serious you are. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT Six crew members and 12 passengers are alive. (Interruptions)

DR S P YADAV (Sambhal) Please do not mislead the House. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT I have to share the information which is available to me through the sources of the Government. (Interruptions)

The Indian Airlines Plane carrying 112 passengers crashes. But, my information is different. I am saying that it was carrying 112 passengers plus 6 crew. Out of them, crew has survived and 12 passengers also have also seen surviving. But in the meantime the recovery is going on and the body which has been recovered from the fire is 40. So, other operation is going on. We have got to see how many of them have survived and how many died. There is no controversy on it. Whatever information I am getting I am sharing with the House. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek) How many of them were foreign tourists? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT I do not have details in this regard right now and when details come I shall keep the House informed about it. (Interruptions)

[English]

The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism

has gone to Aurangabad with Secretary, Civil Aviation to see on-the spot

commandos to Adampur near Amritsar and then to Amritsar by helicopters

**(iii) Hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-427 on 24th April 1993**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION OF TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) Hon'ble members are aware of the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-427 on 24th April, 1993

The flight took off from Delhi at 1357 hrs for Srinagar. At 1443 hrs a message was received by Air Traffic Control Delhi that the plane had been hijacked and was heading for Kabul. A passenger on board who identified himself as Syed Salauddin, claimed that he was carrying pistols and a hand grenade and demanded that the flight be taken to Kabul. Air Traffic Control of Lahore refused to permit the aircraft to enter Pakistan airspace. The aircraft ultimately landed at 1520 hrs, at Amritsar where the hijacker kept the entire crew and passengers hostage and demanded refuelling so that the aircraft may proceed to Kabul. 141 persons were on board, 126 passengers, 9 infants and 6 crew members.

The Crisis Management Group (CMG) at the Cabinet Secretariat and the Central Committee at Delhi Airport were activated and contact was established with Amritsar where the Deputy Commissioner and the Senior Superintendent of Police of the district had arrived and taken up negotiations. The Director General of Punjab Police was asked to proceed to Amritsar where he reached at about 1800 hrs, and took charge of negotiations.

There was prolonged negotiation with the hijacker but he remained adamant on his demand to take the plane to Kabul. The hijacker had also fired a warning shot which pierced through the body of the aircraft.

The CMG advised the negotiating group at Amritsar to continue negotiations with a view to weaning down the hijacker. The CMG also despatched National Security Guards (NSG)

Continued negotiations failed and the hijacker remained adamant even after being told that Kabul Airport was closed for the night and Pakistan Government had prohibited entry into their airspace. At around 2300 hrs the hijacker gave a final ultimatum for refuelling the aircraft failing which he would blow it up. The CMG gave green signal to the NSG commandos and the negotiating group at Amritsar to storm the plane leaving to their discretion the timing of the storming operation depending upon assessment of the ground situation.

Storming operation by NSG started at about 0100 hrs, on 25th April and in a few minutes the hijacking was terminated without any casualty or injury to any passenger or crew members. There was also no further damage to the aircraft. Sudden entry of the commandos into the aircraft totally surprised and dazed the hijacker. As a late reaction he tried to fire but before he could do so he was shot at with a silencer pistol by NSG commando brought out in an injured state to the tarmac and handed over to the local police. Director General of Punjab Police has reported that while the hijacker was being shifted to a vehicle by the local police it was found that he had succumbed to the injury.

The identity of the hijacker has not yet been established. Two loaded 9mm pistols were recovered from his person.

Two criminal cases, one by Punjab Police and another by Delhi Police, have been registered under the relevant provisions of the Anti-hijacking Act, Indian Penal Code, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act. Investigation is in progress.

Preliminary assessment indicates security lapse at Delhi Airport. Delhi Police have suspended an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector. Government have also instituted an inquiry by Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat.