

[ Mr. Speaker ]

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(4) Shrimati Sudha V. Reddy	27th July to 3rd September, 1970 [Eleventh Session]
(5) Maharani Gyatri Devi of Jaipur	27th July to 3rd September, 1970 Eleventh Session].
(6) Shri Kushok Bakula	27th July to 20th August, 1970 [Eleventh Session].
(7) Maharani Vijayamala Rajaram Chhatrapati Bhonsale	27th July to 2nd September, 1970 [Eleventh Session].
(8) Shri S. K. Patil	27th July to 25th August, 1970 [Eleventh Session]

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I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

HON. MEMBERS : Yes

MR. SPEAKER : The Members will be informed accordingly.

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#### COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR (Sambalpur) : I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

12.5. hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE. ACCIDENT TO INDIAN AIRLINES AIRCRAFT

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. KARAN SINGH): Sir following my statement in the House yesterday, I have since received information that the wreckage of the missing aircraft has been sighted from the air by planes of the Indian Airlines and the Air force on the side of a hill at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet near village Khasi Jatinga approximately 38 kilometres from Silchar and about 24 kilometres North-North-East of Kumbhirgram. The aircraft appears to be in three pieces and badly burnt. The wreckage is inaccessible by air and extremely difficult to reach even by land. A rescue party left last night by road and is expected to

reach the site today. Officials of Indian Airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and some local officers have left for the scene of the accident by helicopter this morning and flew over the site after crash. They will try to land as near the spot as possible and thereafter proceed on foot.

A Court of Enquiry is being set up to enquire into the causes and circumstances of this tragic accident.

It is with grief and sorrow that I must report to the House that the chances of any of the 34 passengers and 5 crew having survived the accident are considered remote. The House will share my profound sense of shock at this tragic occurrence, and join me in extending our sincere sympathy to the families of those involved in the accident.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : No more Fokker Friendship; this is the third accident involving the Fokker.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : If you will permit me, it has come to my notice that the normal testing of these planes had been suspended by the permission of the hon. Minister and the DGCA. All these planes that are flying on Indian Airlines should be grounded....

MR. SPEAKER : I do not allow you.