

are only a few days left and the business is more than the time available.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We should have one or two hours' discussion. We do not know what is our attitude.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I quite agree with this.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : May I request the House that in the situation we are faced with, it may be left to Government to decide whether it will be in the interest of the country and our maximum war effort to hold a discussion in the House on the international situation or not?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We want to discuss the war situation. We want to criticise the American behaviour. We know our responsibility towards war. We want to help the country.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East) : Very important statements are being made by foreign Governments like United States and West Germany which impinge on our international policy as well as our economic policy and all the rest of it. The Government and the country should give a proper answer. Parliament is the only forum where that answer can be formulated with the support of the people's representatives. Therefore, as soon as possible, there should be a discussion on these matters.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I concede that Parliament is the most important forum for the ventilation of the nation's views. At the same time, the Government has been absolutely alert in regard to the statements which are being made by foreign Governments and we are making all diplomatic moves and countermoves, that are necessary. And in the interest of the success of those moves, it is necessary that the time and the desirability of holding a discussion may be left to the Government.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The condemnation of the American attitude must be there.... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already said it. Nothing more than that. Dr. Karan Singh.

10.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CRASH OF INDIAN AIRLINES AVRO AIRCRAFT NEAR MADURAI

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : I regret to inform the House that Indian Airlines Avro aircraft VT—DXG while on a scheduled flight from Trivandrum to Madurai yesterday crashed near village Cumbam which is situated on the road from Kottayam to Periyakulam in Uttamapalayam Taluka about 90 kilometres from Madurai at approximately 12.30 hours. This point is roughly 20 miles off the approved track. The aircraft had taken off from Trivandrum at 11.54 hours with 27 passengers and a crew of four. A list of the passengers and crew is laid on the table of the House. There are eleven survivors who are receiving medical treatment at Madurai.

The estimated time of arrival at Madurai was 12.26 hours. According to the weather forecast available to the pilot the sky in the area was generally overcast with scattered light showers. Wind velocity was moderate and visibility good.

Capt. K. L. Reddy, a pilot with 2½ years of command experience, had his last contact with Madurai Control at 12.18 hours when he reported that he was descending from 11000 feet, and gave his expected time of arrival at Madurai as 12.26 hours. When the aircraft failed to land at the expected time, 'overdue' action was initiated immediately and all nearby airfields were alerted. Simultaneously, search was undertaken with a Tiruchirappalli-based helicopter, a Pushpak aircraft from Trivandrum and a naval Dakota.

The first information about sighting the wreckage was received by Indian Airlines Regional Headquarters, Madras at 16.30 hours from the Manager of a tea estate. A party consisting of the Madurai Station Manager of Indian Airlines, police officials and doctors was despatched at once.

The Avro aircraft have had a singularly accident-free record in the service of Indian Airlines ever since they were introduced in 1967. A court of enquiry is being set up to investigate the cause of the accident. The House will join me in expressing our deep

sympathy with the families of the bereaved, and praying for the speed recovery of the injured.

List of Passengers and Crew

SURVIVORS :

1. Mr. K. S. Mani
2. Mr. Nagarajan
3. Master Rajesh
4. Master Raghunath
5. Mr. K. K. Nambiar
6. Mr. K. P. R. Nair
7. Brig. A. S. Jaind
8. Capt. C. B. Menon
9. Miss Marry Flora
10. *Mr. P. A. Seshan
11. Mr. K. R. O. Nair

KILLED :

1. Mr. Sharma
2. Mrs. Sharma
3. Mr. Vishwanathan
4. Mrs. A. Shyamala
5. Mr. Kurup
6. Mr. Abdul Hamid
7. Mr. Badhran
8. Mr. Zaidin
9. Dr. A. Mathews
10. Mrs. Stella Gomez
11. Mrs. D. Lyons
12. Mr. D. L. Fernandez
13. Mr. G. Chandrasekara Pillai
14. Mr. N. C. John
15. Mr. James Joseph
16. Mr. J. Liladhar

1. Capt. K. L. Reddy—	}	Crew
Commander		
2. Capt. S. L. Aggarwal—		
First Officer		
3. Miss. P. Rao		
4. Miss. Ramona		
Maghrabi		

10.14 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

*SHRI BHAWGAT JHA AZAD (Bhagal-

pur) : I beg to move :

That this House do extend the time for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Gift-tax Act, 1958 upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session (1972)."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend the time for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Gift-tax Act, 1958 upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session (1972)."

The motion was adopted.

10.15 hrs.

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, plantations, shops or other establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for the payment of gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, plantations, shops or other establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I introduce the Bill.†

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.12.71.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.