

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): I beg to present the Thirty-first Report of the Estimates Committee regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourth Report on the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment)—Workers' Education Programme.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SEVENTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Seventy-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Fortieth Report relating to the Department of Health (Indian Council of Medical Research).

13.05 hrs.

CRASH OF AN HS-748 AIRCRAFT
NEAR SECUNDERABAD ON 15TH
MARCH, 1973

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): Sir, it is with deep regret that I have to inform the House that an Indian Airlines HS-748 aircraft VT-EAU while engaged on a local training flight crashed yesterday at approximately 16.48 hours near the South Central Railway headquarters in Secunderabad, about 3 miles away from the Begumpet airport.

The aircraft under the command of Capt. J. E. Issac took off from Begumpet at 16.36 hours with two pilots, Captains Srikanth and R. P. Singh, on a training flight for co-pilot conversion. After making one circuit and landing the aircraft took off again. The air-

craft reported that it was simulating a bad weather low-level circuit on one engine. The last communication from the aircraft was at 16.48 hours when reported on the down wind leg of the circuit in preparation for landing on runway 27. Thereafter contact was lost. A telephone call was received a few minutes later at the control tower to the effect that the aircraft had crashed. The fire brigade and ambulance services were immediately sent to the site and officials of the Civil Aviation Department and Indian Airlines also rushed to the spot. Immediate action was taken to rescue the crew, but unfortunately when it was finally possible to reach them they were found dead. It is reported that two persons, a boy and an old woman, were injured on the ground as a result of the crash and that the boy died in the hospital. The woman is in hospital with serious injuries.

At the time of the accident the weather is reported to have been good with a clear sky. Capt. Issac had over 16,500 hours of flying to his credit, and had been an instructor for several years. For the information of the House I may add that the aircraft was one of the latest batch of three delivered by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) in May 1972. The climb performance of the aircraft at the time of delivery exceeded the requirement of 2.4 per cent in second segment and 1.2 per cent en route specified in the approval flight manual.

A Court of Inquiry under a High Court Judge is being set up to investigate into the causes of the accident.

The House will join me in expressing our deep sympathy with the families of those killed and praying for the speedy recovery of the injured lady.

Sir, with your permission, may I read two paragraphs of a letter I have addressed to the Prime Minister last night?

"As you know, the Avros have been the subject of a prolonged con-