

**Shri Swell** rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I have already given him an opportunity.

**Shri Swell:** Normally I do not take the time of the House or interfere with the proceedings of the House, as you know. But this is a question on which I am a little warmed up. I wanted a high-level enquiry. I am thankful to the Minister that he has agreed to that enquiry, although not a judicial inquiry. Now may I have a clarification from him as to what form that enquiry will take?

**Shri Nanda:** It is explicit that it is going to be a high-powered administrative enquiry. A suitable person will be fixed up for this purpose and various aspects will be looked into. I just want to add that I had expected that the members opposite may disclaim any connection with it or condemn this kind of violence and disturbance..... (Interruptions).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Hon. Members should sit down. Now papers to be laid on the Table.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** There is another calling attention notice.

12.35 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**  
 —contd.

**Unidentified Aircraft over West Coast of Maharashtra—contd.**

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, I find there is another one, which was held over till today.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda):** I have got information which might enlighten hon. Members regarding the question which they raised

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about the security aspect. My colleague in the Ministry of Transport has already made a statement, based on available facts, on the reported flight of an unidentified aircraft over the West Coast near Ratnagiri in Maharashtra on 17th August, 1965. The plane was sighted at 6.25 a.m. by a police head constable at a place called Harnai. There being no telegraph office or telephone facilities at that place, he immediately set out to Dapoli, nine miles away, to report the fact at the police station there. A telegram was soon after sent to the Superintendent of Police at Ratnagiri, who received it the same evening. He conveyed it at once by wireless to his Inspector-General of Police, the Controller of Aerodromes at Bombay, the Aerodrome Officer at Juhu, the DIG, CID, Bombay and the DIG of Police, Bombay Range. The same night all the District Superintendents of Police were alerted about the possible landing of the aircraft; they were particularly instructed to warn all police stations on the coastal belt. The Central Bureau of Investigation, on receipt of information, initiated enquiries on its own to verify the report and to ascertain from various State headquarters whether any unauthorised landing had taken place anywhere. The Civil Aviation authorities at Bombay instituted similar inquiries by getting into touch immediately with Flight Information Centres at Karachi, Bahrain, Madras and Colombo, as well as with aerodromes at Mangalore, Goa, Poona, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and Baroda. None of these inquiries has so far confirmed the report, nor has any such aircraft been reported to have made a landing anywhere in the country.

I may add that following the escape of Daniel Walcott from the Safdarjung airport on September 26, 1963, and more particularly, after the Murud incident on 8th June, 1964, Government have reviewed in considerable detail the measures necessary to tighten up security at the airports and in respect of unauthorised landings.

[Shri Nanda]

Instructions were issued to all the State Governments so as to ensure that District Magistrates and police authorities give information in the speediest possible manner of all suspicious flights and render every possible assistance to Government departments working in the aerodromes. We duly cautioned them about the purpose of some of these flights and landings being to plumb our security arrangements and reiterated the existing provisions in the various Acts and Rules which enable the district and police authorities to deal suitably with the aircraft and its occupants, in close co-ordination with the local aviation, customs and immigration authorities. There is thus a regular procedure prescribed to ensure that any such aircraft or its crew are not permitted to move without orders of the competent authority. The Government in the Ministry of Civil Aviation have also issued several notifications under the Indian Aircraft Act and Rules to prevent violations of air traffic regulations, and are proposing to carry out amendments to the Indian Aircraft Act and Rules with a view to widening and strengthening its provisions.

Besides issuing suitable departmental instructions, Government have paid special attention to any shortcomings and special features that may have come to light after each incident in the past. After the escape of Daniel Walton from Safdarjung, Shri L. C. Jain, Secretary, Department of Communications was asked by Government to make an inquiry into the circumstances of this escape and to fix responsibility. Shri Jain submitted a detailed report to Government suggesting disciplinary action against aerodrome officials responsible for breach of duty and also made recommendations for a thorough and general review of the Indian Aircraft Act and the Rules thereunder in the light of the current prevailing circumstances. Government agreed with the

findings of the report and have started suitable disciplinary proceedings against those officers who did not take sufficient steps to prevent the escape. Government have also accepted the suggestions made by the inquiring officer for a comprehensive general review of the Indian Aircraft Act and the Rules.

In connection with the recent landing of an aircraft at Bhubaneswar, the Central Bureau of Investigation conducted a special and detailed investigation. Although the result of the investigation revealed nothing illegal or suspicious, in its report the Central Bureau of Investigation has made several useful suggestions for plugging the loopholes and tightening up procedures especially from the point of view of effecting co-ordination of the different agencies involved and of preventing infringement of security. In fact, the Economic Offences Wing of the Central Bureau of Investigations, set up by Government in July, 1964, is meant to reinforce the efforts made in many directions to check international smuggling operations and constantly to advise the Government on the necessary remedial action, including any security aspect, that may arise out of the investigation.

Hon. Members will also remember that soon after the Murud incident on 8th June, 1964, Government had appointed an Airport Security Committee to make recommendations on the measures to improve and strengthen the system, wherever necessary, after examining the existing arrangements and procedures at the airports in relation to customs, immigration, health check, passenger facilities and security. The Committee has recently submitted its report and I need hardly assure the House that the Committee's recommendations will be examined and action taken as quickly as possible.

Some hon. Member rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow only questions or clarifications; I will not allow long statements. Shri Hem Barua.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** From the statement, it is evident that this aircraft did not land in any of our airports but it intruded into our air space all right. In that light, I want to put a question. In view of the fact that the intrusion into our air space by international smugglers or gangsters, whatever you might call them, from Murad to Bhubaneshwar has become of a similar pattern, may I know (a) if Government have been able to locate the Indian counterparts of the international gangsters and (b) whether Government have sought the cooperation of the Defence Minister to guard our coastal air-space with the Air Force?

**Shri Nanda:** I realise that the whole problem of security is indivisible in the sense that Government has an undivided responsibility for it and all concerned have to collaborate, the Defence, the Civil Aviation and the Home Affairs. But their responsibilities again are differentiated for different purposes. Regarding the question raised, all these aspects are being integrated and, as the hon. Member may be aware, regarding this Walcott affair, we have gone ahead with it and extradition proceedings are practically being finalised and all the information related to the international aspect of it has been collected.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He has not replied to my question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member says that though the plane might not have landed at any of the airports or at any place in India, then too there was an intrusion of our air-space.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Flowing from that, I put two questions (a) and (b) and he has not replied to any of them.

**Shri Nanda:** Firstly, it has not been established regarding the fact of that intrusion and, therefore, I cannot follow up the other questions.

**Shri Hem Barua:** His statement is comprehensive; it includes Walcott incident and the Bhubaneshwar incident also.

**Mr. Speaker:** His statement may be comprehensive but I have only to confine it to the Calling Attention Notice and not to the statement.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara):** May I know whether the Home Minister is in a position to deny, on the basis of the information that he has with him, that this particular plane at Murad did not drop gold bars and that the date and timing of the dropping was not conveyed by the plane which landed unscheduled at Bhubaneshwar and that luckily the only first man to contact was Shri Biju Patnaik?

**Shri Nanda:** This is rather too far-fetched.

**Mr. Speaker:** Only first part of the question might be answered.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** This is a connected question. I want to know whether this plane that landed there....

**Shri Nanda:** In regard to Bhubaneshwar plane, full and complete investigations have been conducted by our officers. Every aspect of it has been gone into. This has nothing at all to do with that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The second part of the question was whether this particular plane dropped gold bars.

**Shri Nanda:** There is nothing at all known about it.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** May I know whether they have enquired into that fact?

**Mr. Speaker:** That has nothing to do with that. That is what he says.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** He has not enquired into it.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** After the mal-adventures of Daniel Walcott, has the security-squint, if not security-blind, Government, accepting the recommendations of this inquiry body, so tightened up the security arrangements with radar installations, etc. at strategic or key-points, and is the Minister today in a position to firmly state that no unidentified or unpermitted aircraft can over-fly our territory or violate Indian airspace with impunity?

**Shri Nanda:** We are fully conscious of our responsibility for security. There should be no complacency. When we have done our best, we should do better still. I realise that. I am very glad that the hon. Member is also showing that kind of consciousness.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I have always been conscious of it. You are security-blind.

**Shri Nanda:** In the countryside, a number of people had seen something and I can give you information as to what was seen but it may take time. The question was about being able to say that at no time in future any such thing will happen. We have various responsibilities and we have various priorities and, therefore, we are doing our best in relation to those priorities. I can assure the hon. Members that they will not be allowed to get away in the sense that....

**Shri Hem Barua:** They are getting away. Walcott got away; everybody gets away.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I asked about radar installations. Have they got radar installations?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think so. They are doing their best.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Let him say so. Why don't you ask the Minister to answer the question? He is only side-tracking the issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know whether we are equipped with the

radar and other equipments so that any encroachment like this will be detected at once.

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** As far as the Air Force is concerned, the radar system is normally arranged against certain assessed air threat. Certainly, we have some arrangement on the western coast but I will not be able to give the details about it. At the same time, I may say that the radar arrangement is not sensitive for low-flying small planes. That fact has to be accepted.

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order, Sir. The other day, while making the statement in reply to my Calling Attention Notice, the Minister for Civil Aviation said that there was no radar arrangement at the western coast of Maharashtra and, therefore, the intrusion by this plane could not be detected. Now, here is the Defence Minister who says....

**Mr. Speaker:** He did not say that there is no arrangement. He said that cannot cover the whole area.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** The various newspapers in other countries, in Colombo, etc., after Mr. Walcott's successful escape from the hands of the collective security arrangements, say that India has become a paradise of smugglers and espionage. I want to know whether it is a fact that the purpose of such planes—there was the landing of a helicopter on an island in Bombay which was reported by some paper—is not to land but to throw bags of gold bars to their counterparts here, the Indian smugglers, and, if so, whether any steps are being taken to see that they are shot at before they try to land.

**Shri Nanda:** I can say this that, even after what has been so far enquired into, these things are being pursued; it is not necessarily with reference to this plane but generally these things are being pursued. This gentleman had operated in the United

Kingdom, Beirut, Bahrein, France  
and Switzerland.

**Shri Ranga (Chittoor):** He is very  
clever.

**Mr. Speaker:** Any other signatory?  
Prof. D. C. Sharma.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):**  
The statement which the hon. Min-  
ister has given is culled from the offi-  
cial sources which are inclined to  
deny a thing like this. Moreover, he  
has relied upon the evidence which  
he has collected from Karachi and  
other places. May I know if Karachi  
and other airports will be in a posi-  
tion to give us any information  
about these smugglers specially when  
our relations with them are such  
which everybody knows? I want to  
ask this from the hon. Minister.  
When 20 per cent of the crime in  
Delhi is only detected, why is it that  
he is relying upon the routine infor-  
mation and he is not depending upon  
the first-hand information which  
came to him from other sources?  
The statement is only to deny the  
violation of air space of our country  
by an aircraft which is itself being  
smuggled.

**श्री बड़े (खारगोन):** श्री मंत्री जी ने  
कहा कि हरने गांव में प्लेन देखा गया।  
हरने गांव और मुरुड में केवल दो मील का  
अन्तर है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** क्या आप भी वहां के  
रहने वाले हैं?

**श्री बड़े:** मैं मुरुड का रहने वाला हूँ।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मुरुड और  
हरने के बीच में सरकार ने पुलिस या सी  
आई डी लगायी है या कोई ऐसा इन्ति-  
जाम किया है कि वहां लोग गोल्ड बास  
न गिराने पावें।

**Shri Nanda:** Arrangements are being  
made now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Papers to be laid on  
the Table.

**Shri B. S. Murthy.**

**श्री ए० सा० द्विवेदी (हमीरपुर):** मैंने  
एक कालिग प्रॉटेशन का नोटिस दिया था।  
एक भ्रादमी का प्राण अस्पताल में जा रहा  
है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** आप रोज मुनते हैं प्रीर  
फिर भी इस तरह खड़े हो कर कहते हैं।  
आपने लिखा है, मैं उसे देखूंगा। आप  
इस तरह खड़े हो कर न कहें।

**श्री ए० सा० द्विवेदी:** मुझे उत्तर नहीं  
मिला।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** इस वक्त जब मैं  
कालिग प्रॉटेशन नोटिस पर चल रहा हूँ  
तो आप को उत्तर नहीं मिल सकता।

**Shri Hem Barua:** By the time it is  
admitted, the patient might be dead.

**Mr. Speaker:** Not more than half  
an hour should be allowed for this  
purpose ever day.

Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.52 hrs

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE KERALA PANCHAYATS ACT, 1960.

The Deputy Minister in the Minis-  
try of Community Development and  
Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):  
I beg to lay on the Table a copy each  
of the following Notifications under  
sub-section (3) of section 130 of the  
Kerala Panchayats Act, 1960, read  
with clause (c) (iv) of the Procla-  
mation dated the 24th March, 1965,  
issued by the Vice-President discharg-  
ing the functions of the President, in  
relation to the State of Kerala:—

(i) S.R.O. 64/65 published in  
Kerala Gazette dated the 16th