

incurred by the Kalinga Industries Ltd. would be done with the prior approval of the Director of Industries, Government of Orissa?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes. The State Government have only stood guarantee for a debenture loan of Rs. 25 lakhs for the establishment by the Company of a Low Shaft Furnace Plant for manufacture of pig iron at Barbil, in the district of Keonjhar, Orissa. The Company has already taken this amount from the Bank.

(b) No. However clause 13 of the agreement executed under the provisions of the Orissa State Aid to Industries Rules by the Company in favour of the State Government in May 1958 in connection with the guarantee, provides that the following acts by the Company shall be subject to the prior concurrence of the Director of Industries, Orissa:

- (a) all appointments carrying a salary of over Rs. 500 per month;
- (b) all contingent and capital expenditure costing over Rs. 5,000 in any single item; and
- (c) any financial commitment or contract over Rs. 5,000.

12.17 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: MISSING IAF DAKOTA AIRCRAFT

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Yesterday, I informed the House that an Air Force Dakota which had taken off from Agra on the 1st of May on a supply-dropping mission, had been reported missing.

A message was received last night or rather during the early hours of this morning, from military sources, which originated from some of the survivors, that they had found their way to the police post about 20 miles from Joshi Math.

The Dakota, it will be recalled, had taken off from Agra, on a supply-dropping mission on the 1st May, 1961. There were four aircrew and five ejection crew on board. Intensive air and ground search operations had been in force since the aircraft was overdue. A total of 28 air-search sorties were carried out till the evening of 3rd May. The Army and civil authorities joined with the Air Force in this search.

Arrangements for the air evacuation of the four survivors and for bringing them to Delhi are in hand. Pending confirmation of the report received and further news, the next-of-kin have been informed that the aircrew and ejection crew are still considered as missing, because there is no definite information about them. A court of enquiry is being ordered.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know in what condition these four persons are? May I also know whether their names have ascertained? What is the position about the other five persons? Have they been traced?

Shri Krishna Menon: The persons missing are 2 of the aircrew and three of the ejection crew. The persons who have survived are a captain, the co-pilot and two other ranks.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I am told that this aircraft lost contact within four minutes of its taking off from Agra. What was done when this aircraft lost contact? I feel that if some action had been taken to search it, after those four minutes, when it had lost contact, perhaps it might not have been lost or missed or it might not have crashed.

Shri Krishna Menon: I have no such information. Even if I had, as the court of inquiry is there, these are all relevant matters for it to inquiry into.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Has this come to the notice of the Defence Minister or not, that at 6.43 the aircraft took off from Agra and it lost contact at 6.47?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Defence Minister is not aware of it. Whatever might have happened will be taken notice of by the Court of Inquiry, and we will have that report.

12.22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED SETTING ON FIRE OF HOUSES OF SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE IN A VILLAGE IN U.P.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad (Nasik): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The alleged setting on fire of 80 houses of Scheduled Caste people of Daula Raghubir Dayal village in Bareilly District, Uttar Pradesh, by Thakurs.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): "The alleged setting on fire of 80 houses of Scheduled Caste people of Daula Raghubir Dayal village in Bareilly District Uttar Pradesh by Thakurs."

In the recent Gram Panchayat elections in the Daula Raghubir Dayal village in Bareilly district, the Thakurs were defeated as, it is reported, they were not supported by the Jatavas, who are members of the Scheduled Castes. Two of these Thakurs, Jhandu Singh and Chander Singh turned enemies of one Chokhey Jatava, and are alleged to have set fire to his house on the 25th February, 1961. The flames of this fire spread fast due to strong wind and caused damage to about 68 houses. The loss as a result of this fire is estimated at Rs. 30,000. No human life was lost, but three or four animals were burnt or injured.

2. Shri Chokhey Jatava lodged a report which was registered under section 436 I.P.C. The report was investigated by the police, and

Jhandu Singh and Chander Singh have been prosecuted. The case against them is pending in Court.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether some compensation has been paid to these poor innocent people by imposing a punitive tax on those who set fire to the houses? If that is not possible, I want to know what aid Government is giving to these people to rebuild their houses and establish themselves as before.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): We have no information on that point. This is entirely the responsibility of the State Government, and I am quite sure that they will do the needful.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I know whether it has been fully ascertained that the houses were burnt down by Thakurs?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I do not know. The names appear like those of Thakurs. The two names are Jhandu Singh and Chander Singh. In any case, two of them have been prosecuted, and when the case is over, we will be able to know the true facts.

Shri Vajpayee: May I point out that in the Call Attention Notice, the entire Thakur community has been involved? If there are individuals who have done this, they must be condemned and they should be punished. But the entire community of Thakurs should not be brought in in this manner.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vajpayee has raised a pertinent question. I am anxious to allow all information to be placed before the House wherever there is any oppression apprehended, wherever there is oppression of the Harijan community or Scheduled Castes by others. There may be such incidents here and there, but other incidents which may relate to something