

India Airbus VT-EHQ, operating from Dubai to Trivandrum landed at Trivandrum, fire was noticed. After investigation, we found that the brakes had got jammed and that was how there was a fire. It was extinguished and everything was put right.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : In the accident that took place on 23 June 1985, so many Indians as well as foreigners lost their lives. How many cases have so far been settled? How many are still pending? How much compensation has been paid? Secondly, there are two different laws as far as compensation is concerned. Is the Government of India facing any difficulty in finalising compensation to be paid to the Indians involved in the accident?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : That unfortunate accident claimed 329 lives. We have received 105 claims from Indian and 202 from Canadians. Till today, we have settled 114 claims and there are 7 claims which are to be partly settled. In India, with regard to 69 claims we have paid Rs. 2.85 crores and in Canada for 45 claims we have paid Rs. 3.38 crores. The total amount paid is Rs. 6.23 crores. There are certain cases which we have settled for Rs. 2.58 crores, but these are pending documentation.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : It is almost two years since this incident of Kanishka Aircraft took place with a loss of so many precious lives. I like to know whether the Government has been able to piece together the chain of events that led to the explosion—at what point, at what place the explosive was placed in the aircraft; how it escaped the notice of the Airlines staff and the securing staff of the airport; whether the people responsible for the explosion were identified; whether they have been arrested or what has happened to them.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The court of inquiry which went into the whole accident has tried to pinpoint and give a direction to the whole incident right from the time the aircraft started till the accident took place. They have given their recommendations and some of the things which have been pointed out are being looked into by the Canadian Police.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : May I know whether the people responsible for the explo-

sion have been identified? If they have not been arrested, then it is a different matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, the Inquiry was for the cause of the accident and not for identification. But events led to believe that...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :...How can you justify that? How can you blame anybody, that he or she did it? The instances led us to believe that this could have happened. The Canadian Police is doing everything possible to apprehend and catch these culprits.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : You have no information on that.

Report of the Committee on use of Shipping Corporation of India's Ships by Smugglers

*596. **SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High level Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General (Shipping) constituted to look into the matter of large scale use of Shipping Corporation of India's ships by smugglers has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). On receipt of information and reports regarding use of Shipping Corporation of India's ships for smuggling, the Ministry of Surface Transport had appointed a High Level Committee to look into the matter. The report of this Committee on the pattern and size of contraband carriage in SCI vessels, the legal and administrative responsibility in this regard and related matters has been received in this Ministry on 23.3.87. These findings and recommendations are under study of the Ministry.

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the report of the Committee and action taken to implement the recommendations will be laid on the Table of the House? How much time is expected to be taken to process the report and the implementation of its recommendations?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the report of the High Level Committee has been received by us. They have submitted it to us. When we noticed that this method was being used for smuggling and it was increasing, the Government took a very serious view.

As far as laying of the report on the Table of the House is concerned, frankly speaking, I really do not know. It is upto the House and if the House requires to see it, the Government has no objection to lay the same on the Table of the House.

As far as the time factor is concerned, we will do it at the earliest because the Government is also keen to check such activities and we are very seriously concerned about it and our Department will take serious action against such elements.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : What action has been taken by the Government to check this misuse of Shipping Corporation's ships for smuggling?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the Government has very clear rules and regulations. The orders were already issued, but there have been instances where they have not been really followed in a strict manner. That is why these instances have taken place. We are also trying to strengthen the Merchant Shipping Act under which Government's hands and the Department's hands can come more rudely and strongly on such elements who are involved in smuggling.

As far as action is concerned, after this Committee's report is studied by the Government, we are likely to come in a more

heavier way to take action against these chafes.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, this is a unique question, that there has been large scale use of our ships under the Shipping Corporation by the smugglers—Members should know this. We would like to know whether this Committee has said that smuggling is being done or they have also fixed the responsibility on the persons concerned? If it has been fixed, would you tell us what action are you taking? This is a fit case of a report being placed on the Table of the House. Let us also understand how clever are they that they used the Government ships under the Shipping Corporation. What prevents you from putting it on the Table of the House and what action will you take against the officers who have been held responsible for that?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have taken action against those people who are involved. We have dismissed those officers. We have gone to the court even legally to take action against them. And in the last 2-3 years, it is a fact...

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : How many persons you have dismissed?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have roughly taken action against 90 individuals, concerning S.C.I. during the last 3-4 years in a fact that smuggling has taken place through some means in the want to hide anything from the House. That is why Government appointed this Committee to know more about it, that is, how the ships have been misused for smuggling.

But as far as laying of the report on the Table of the House is concerned, the Department has no objection, but it is upto the House and whatever the House wants will be done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : What is the objection in placing the report on the Table of the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You kindly direct the Minister to lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, I have said that Government is studying this report; and after the Government has read the report and taken the decision, we will lay it on the Table of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order...

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : What objection could Government have? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you want to lay the report on the Table of the House, you are free to do so. There is no problem for me.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : This is a fit case for doing it.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What is the position now? Is he going to place it?

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let me clarify the Members' doubts. During the last week of March, *i.e.* on the 23rd March 1987 it was received. It is under study. Give some time to the Government to read the report, and take action on it. We should tell the House that Government is taking action on it. There is no use laying the report on the Table, when Government has not made up its mind. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have got no objection.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : You should ask the hon. Minister to place it on the Table, Sir.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There should be a time-frame. *(Interruptions)*

PROF MADHU DANAVATE : What is your direction, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : My direction is that I have no objection to their placing it. *(Interruptions)* If they want to lay it on the Table...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : You are only telling him that the table is available. What is your directive regarding laying it on the Table?

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Your direction should be specific, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It should also be accompanied by the action taken by Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Well; I would like to know that. But I think laying it on the Table will help him, if the other Members also read and help him to see how he can find out the culprits. What is the difficulty? It does not hinder him in considering the report, *i.e.* his laying it on the Table. There is no difficulty or problem. Let him think about it.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : That should be the property of the House, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I have made Government's intention very clear. Government wants that no smuggling should take place. That is why Government appointed this committee. We do not want to hide it from the House. The moment Government has taken action on the report, we will place it on the Table of the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Already the report has been submitted. There is nothing wrong if Government places it on the Table, and then take action.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It was submitted only last week.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Government wants to hide this report. It is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is over, I have got it done.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : What have you got done? It has not been replied to yet.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Do not waste the time of the House.