

# Nanaji hand in Pitts' crash: MP

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NEW DELHI, Dec 18.

A Congress member, Mr R. P. Yadav, created a sensation in the Lok Sabha today when he alleged that Mr Sanjay Gandhi's aircraft had crashed as a result of a conspiracy hatched by Mr Nanaji Deshmukh in connivance with an Indian Airlines mechanic.

Mr Yadav claimed that he had in his possession a letter purported to have been written by a BJP member, Mr R. P. Sarangi, to Mr Vajpayee which contained references to the alleged conspiracy.

Both Mr Vajpayee and Mr Sarangi strongly denied existence of any such letter. Mr Vajpayee demanded that since Mr Yadav had levelled a serious charge against Mr Deshmukh and others, including him, the whole matter be probed by two Supreme Court judges.

Mr Yadav made these allegations by a special mention in the House. In his counter statement, Mr Vajpayee, while denying the receipt of any such letter, wondered how a letter purported to have been written to him had been intercepted and reached Mr Yadav. Or had the CID intercepted it and passed it on to Mr Yadav, he asked.

He said he had met Mr Sarangi a number of times after the crash of Mr Sanjay Gandhi's plane but they had not discussed even the possibility of a conspiracy in the crash.

Mr Sarangi challenged Mr Yadav to level the charges outside the House so that he could be sued for "character assassination." Mr Yadav, on the other hand, complained to the Speaker that he had not been given an advance

copy of Mr Vajpayee's counter-statement denying the charge.

Excited Congress-I members demanded that the serious charges levelled by Mr Yadav should be investigated thoroughly. The Speaker, Mr Balam Jakhar, told Mr Jagdish Tytler and Mr Harish Rawat, that the matter was before the House and they need not get excited about it.

In his special mention, Mr Yadav said he wanted to expose a conspiracy which had "snatched a son from a mother and had widowed a young woman". It had also deprived the nation of a budding youth leader.

Mr Yadav said he wanted to tell the world that Mr Sanjay Gandhi's death was not an ordinary death. It was a "cruel and blood curdling political murder," committed at the "instance of Nanaji Deshmukh".

He said the crash of Mr Gandhi's Pitts aircraft had been caused by a "mechanic of Indian Airlines who had manipulated the engines of the plane.

Mr Yadav said he was making his allegations on the basis of a letter written by a BJP member of the House Mr Rudra Pratap Sarangi to the party President, Mr Vajpayee. He placed the copy of the letter on the table of the House.

Mr Yadav demanded that the guilty persons be given the "severest of punishment," so that no one ever conspired against any budding personality of the country.

The text of the letter, purported to have been written by Mr Sarangi to Mr Vajpayee and which was placed on the table of the House, is as follows (the letter is in Hindi).

Dear Ataji, namaskar.

I am writing this to you with a

heavy heart. A senior 'pracharak' of the RSS has been telling important RSS leaders that Sanjay Gandhi was finished by Nanaji (Deshmukh). Rumours have it that at the behest of Nanaji, a 'Sanghi' mechanic of Indian Airlines had done something to the engine of the aircraft so that it crashes within 15-20 minutes of the take-off. This was confirmed in my presence by a Marathi 'pracharak' at the Sangh office in Delhi.

I feel that by conspiring to finish off Sanjay, Nanaji has committed a great sin. But by exposing the conspiracy, the Marathi 'pracharaks' are doing a much dangerous job.

You should exert your influence to try to stop this propaganda. Otherwise, if the government comes to know of it, many innocent workers will have to suffer for Nanaji's sin.

We may have had differences with Sanjay, but he was not our enemy. Ever since I have come to know of the conspiracy, I have had a feeling of being trapped in a gang of murderers, Madhokji (Mr Balraj Madhok) was right in alleging that Upadhyayaji (Mr Deen Dayal Upadhyaya) had been got murdered by Nanaji.

On one hand Devrajji (Bala Saheb Deoras) supports Indira Devi and Sanjay and on the other Nanaji conspires to finish off Sanjay. What does this double-faced policy mean?

I hope you will give attention to what I have written.

Yours

Rudra Pratap Sarangi.

The letter bears the date November 10, 1980 and the address of the sender is given as 65, South Avenue, New Delhi.