

(2) The Court shall hold the investigation in open court in such manner and under such conditions as the Court may think most effectual for ascertaining the causes and circumstances of the accident and for enabling the Court to make the report hereinafter mentioned.

(3) (i) The Court shall have, for the purpose of the investigation, all the powers of a Civil Court under the Court Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and without prejudice to those powers the Court may :—

(a) enter and inspect, or authorise any person to enter and inspect any place or building, the entry or inspection whereof appears to the Court requisite for the purposes of the investigation; and

(b) enforce the attendance of witnesses and compel the production of documents and material objects; and every person required by the Court to furnish any information shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of section 176 of the Indian Penal Code.

(ii) The assessors shall have the same powers of entry and inspection as the Court.

(4) The investigation shall be conducted in such manner that, if a charge is made or likely to be made against any person, that person shall have an opportunity of being present and of making any statement or giving any evidence and producing witnesses on his behalf.

(5) Every person attending as a witness before the Court shall be allowed such expenses as the Court may consider reasonable :

Provided that, in the case of the owner or hirer of any aircraft concerned in the accident and of any person in his employment or of any other person concerned in the accident, any such expenses may be disallowed if the Court, in its discretion, so directs.

(6) The Court shall make a report to the Central Government stating its findings as to the causes of the accident and the circumstances thereof and adding any observations and recommendations which the Court thinks fit to make with a view to the preservation of life and avoidance of similar accidents in future, including, a recommendation for the cancellation, suspension or endorsement of any licence or certificate issued under these rules.

(7) The assessors (if any) shall either sign the report, with or without reservations, or state in writing their dissent therefrom and their reasons for such dissent, and such reservations or dissent and reasons (if any) shall be forwarded to the Central Government with the report. The Central Government may cause any such report and reservations or dissent and reasons (if any) to be made public, wholly or in part, in such manner as it thinks fit.

76. Obstruction of proceedings.—(1) No person shall obstruct or impede the Court or a member of the Committee of Inquiry or an Inspector of accidents or an assessor or any person acting in the exercise of any powers or duties under the rules in this Part.