

employ uniformed personnel in the U.R.Cs to the extent possible. The aforesaid letter was withdrawn through another letter, issued on 10-12-91, cancelling the earlier letter.

The services of the employees of U.R.Cs at Kharga, Ambala, Pune Sub Area etc. were not terminated pursuant to any instructions of the Government, but either because their service conditions did not permit their retention or because the employees had violated the rules and regulations of the U.R.C. concerned.

Government is aware of the news item appearing on 30-9-1992 in 'Rashtriya Sahara' under the caption 'Raksha Mantrayala Ki Canteen men Civilian Karmachariyon Ki Sthiti Bahut Dayniya Hai'. Inquiries have revealed that it is incorrect to conclude that a bonded labour system prevails in the U.R.Cs or that the employees are subjected to any suffering, requiring mitigation through Government intervention.

Sale of Arms and Ammunitions by Foreign Companies

4074. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of some foreign companies dealing in arms and ammunitions;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies;

(c) whether a company named M/s D'silva Locomotive Europe (India) is also engaged in supplying guns and small arms to some private organisations without the consent of the Government; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or is being taken against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a)

and (b) There are a large number of foreign companies dealing with the production and supply of arms and ammunition. Without reference to the specific nature of arms and ammunition, it is not possible to collect country-wise information of the names of all companies which deal with the supply of such stores. This Ministry does not maintain such information.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Defence has no dealings with this Company.

Abandoning of Light Combat Aircraft

4075. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of funds spent so far on the Light Combat Aircraft project and the stage at which it stands at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government now propose to abandon the project as it is facing problems regarding procurement, development of engine, frame, electronic components and other avionic systems required for its completion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A sum of Rs. 481 crores has been spent upto Nov 92 on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. After completion of Project Definition Phase (PDP), the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) commenced in April 90 and would be carried out in two phases. Critical technologies for LCA are planned to be demonstrated in phase I of FSED. Phase II envisages intergration of various other technologies being deve-

loped parallelly during Phase I. Government sanction is being sought for enhanced funds needed for phase I activities.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. GEF 404 engines have already been procured for use as interim power plant. Concurrently indigenous design & development of Kaveri engine is under progress. Various is under active development and is options for procurement/indigenous development of avionics and electronic items have already been exercised. The LCA demonstrator expected to undergo first flight in Dec. 96.

Corruption in Army Supply Corps

4076. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Army Officers of Army Supply Corps have been found involved in corruption relating to purchase of tinned butter which is unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, what are the details therefor indicating the action taken against them;

(c) what are the details of the quantity of the purchase and the amount of loss sustained by the Department of Defence and whether any action has been taken to recover the same;

(d) what are the names of the suppliers involved in the deal in question and what action has been taken against each of them; and

(e) whether Government propose to black list the suppliers in question if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The CBI registered a case on 6-6-91 against some officers of the Army Supply Corps and a private trader of Guwahati, for offences under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. It has been alleged that these officers, in collusion with the supplier, were responsible for purchase of 22 Metsic Tonnes of substandard tinned butter at exorbitant rates, for consumption of Army personnel, during May 1984 to June 1985. The Court has already taken cognizance of the matter and the case is under investigation.

Further action will depend on the outcome of the investigations and the Court proceedings.

India's contribution in processed food and its export in the world

4077. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR

CHANDRAKANT BHAN-DARE:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI,
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated fruits and vegetables production in the country during the last three years, year-wise together with the quantity actually being subjected to processing;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has a small share of processed items in the world market in spite of its being a predominantly agriculture based country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of export of processed