

(c) None; it will function in an honorary and advisory capacity.

**Thrust of Planning during the Eighth Five Year Plan**

1134. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the major thrust of Planning during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the extent to which it will reflect the conditions as prevailing in the country today?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The main objectives and strategies including the major thrust areas for the 8th Five Year Plan would be set out in the Approach Paper which is under preparation at present. The objectives and strategies for the Eighth Five Year Plan will fully reflect the conditions as prevailing in the country to-day.

**Supply of Electronic Information Systems for ships by Foreign firm**

1135. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two sets of computer based electronic information system for ships was ordered from a foreign firm;

(b) whether the Expert Committee had not recommended the firm and their equipment; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for opting for a foreign firm against the recommendations of the Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government decision in the matter was taken in the best

interests of the Armed Forces after considering the recommendations of several Expert Committees.

**Inspection of Ammunition supplied to Indian Army**

1136. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Inspection (DGI) has been entrusted with the work of examining the ammunition manufactured and supplied by Ordnance Factories for use by the Indian Army;

(b) whether the DGI has been submitting its reports to the Defence Ministry;

(c) whether these reports are scrutinised and action taken thereon;

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the heads of the Ordnance Factories supplying defective ammunition since 1975 to March 1985; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (e) The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), earlier designated as Directorate General of Inspection (DGI) is *inter-alia* entrusted with the work of final acceptance inspection of the ammunition manufactured and supplied by Ordnance Factories for use by the Indian Army in terms of the specifications laid down for manufacture of the items.

After inspection of ammunition in accordance with the laid down specifications of the stores, the DGQA submits its findings to the manufacturing agency viz. Ordnance Factories

in the form of inspection notes. These inspection notes, apart from indicating the quantities accepted and rejected, also point out the reasons of rejection viz. defects noticed viz-a-viz the stipulated requirements.

Based on the nature of defects pointed out by the DGQA (earlier DGI) rectification/modification of the stores, wherever necessary, are carried out by the Ordnance Factories. Action is also taken wherever necessary by the Ordnance Factories for improvement in product design, production processes, quality of materials etc., in consultation with Defence Research and Development Orgn. (DRDO) and/or DGQA.

The ammunition which is found to be defective in accordance with the laid down specification is rejected at the stage of inspection itself. Unless the defects in this rejected ammunition are rectified to make the ammunition conform to the laid down specifications, the rejected ammunition is not supplied to the Indian Army. As such, there is normally no occasion for supply of defective ammunition by the Ordnance Factories to the Indian Army. However, there may be a rare occasion in which the design of the product itself contains certain deficiencies which come to light only after their use over a period of time by the users. In such cases, the deficiencies are carefully studied and rectified. One such instance was in respect of a particular type of ammunition in which defects were first noticed in 1975. Even after repairs were done, defects were again noticed in 1983-84. The investigations into the cause of the defects have revealed that the material used in the design had inherent limitations. The defects are not attributable to any production process, technical failure or quality control. The defects surfaced due to ageing factor entailing long storage. They did not surface at the design stage even after detailed tests for strength and chemical analysis were done including resistance to ultra-violet light

and stress factor. No action against any Head(s) of Ordnance Factories has been warranted in this regard.

#### Indians in Bhutan

1137. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Bhutan have asked all Indians to leave Bhutan as early as possible;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) if so, the response of the Bhutan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Auction of Letters written by Mahatma Gandhi in London

1138. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Sotheby of London are holding an auction of letters written by Mahatma Gandhi to his friends in South Africa; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to get these letters back in view of the importance of these letters and to save documents for history and for future generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government participated in the auction and succeeded in obtaining approximately 80 letters from Gandhiji as well as five boxes containing papers of Henry Pollak relating to Gandhiji and Indian affairs.