

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 5th March, 1981/t/ie 14th
Phalguna 1902 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacturing of aircraft for feeder lines

*221. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
SAHU:† SHRI KRISHNA NAND
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to
manufacture aircraft needed for feeder lines in
the country;

(b) if so, whether collaborations by
foreign firms are being negotiated for this
purpose; and

(c) if so, what progress has been made so
far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a)
Government are considering the
manufacture of a suitable aircraft
required for feeder lines and other
roles.

(b) and (c) Some foreign manufacturers
have offered collaboration arrangements.
Negotiations will be initiated after
completing the studies relating to the
feasibility and the viability of the project.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR "SAHU: Sir, as
per the report and statement given by the
Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister, a
Committee will be appointed soon to go into
selecting a better aircraft for the feeder air-
lines. May I know whether the HAL person
who has the expertise on production of Avro
will be included in that Committee.

†The Question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Santosh Kuma-
Sahu.

My second question is this: Because we
are producing Avros and there was some
insistence by the pilots on the less payload
taking factor at the time of take-off, may I
know whether there can be some alteration
and modification so that the Avros can be
fitted for the short-haul feeder aircraft?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: As far as the
new aircraft is concerned, we have not taken
any final decision and it is being evaluated.
As far as the Avro aircraft is concerned, it is a
44-seater and the fuel consumption is very
high. The modifications required would be
very difficult and it will not be cost-effective.
For all these reasons, the Avro—it is
supposed—will not be suitable for this
purpose.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: May I
know what are the countries which have
offered technology for the small haulage
aircraft? Mr. Lumly, the Canadian Minister,
told the press that they have given some offer,
so that they will give a licence for the
manufacture of a small aircraft in this
country...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought all this has
been gone into and no decision has been
taken. What is the use of suggesting? I can
suggest twenty types of aircraft, Otter and
others. How can the Minister have the infor-
mation? He will be examining them.

Mr. Joshi—not here. Yes, Mr. Krishna.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, one of the things
which we have yet to do is to assess the
requirements of the transport aircraft for various
areas and to produce the correct aircraft in the
country. We have already wasted a lot of money
in choosing various aircraft whenever it suited
us. I would like to know whether the Defence
Ministry has gone into this aspect to find out
what would be the requirement for this country
and what type of aircraft would suit us) very
much and after that, whether We are going into
collaboration with

the companies with which we' are already associated.

MR, CHAIRMAN: The question answers itself.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: No, Sir, it has not been answered. The first thing is how many types of transport aircraft are being used at the moment.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we are trying to assess our requirements in different fields for the purpose of taking passenger from one place to the other for the purpose of third line and for other purposes also. It is only after knowing what our requirements are that we would be able to decide whether it would be cost-effective to produce them in our country or not. That study is being done and after coming to a conclusion whether it would be feasible and viable to produce the aircraft in our country, we may start negotiations and evaluation of the aircraft, their technology and other things offered by the companies and factories and the other producers in other countries.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ, एक तो मंत्री जी के जवाब से ही लगता है कि अभी तक सरकार ने इसमें कोई फैसला नहीं किया है कि बनाना बेहतर रहेगा या खरीदना बेहतर रहेगा, समाचार पत्रों में कुछ खबर छपी थी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि फीडर एयर लाइन में इस्तेमाल होने वाले छोटे हवाई जहाजों की हिन्दुस्तान में एजेंसी लेने के लिए पिछले दिनों श्री धीरेन्द्र ब्रह्मचारी जी ने यूरोप के कुछ मूल्यों का दौरा किया था, यदि हाँ, तो क्या उनको, सरकार किन-किन जहाजों को खरीद रही है, इसकी जानकारी थी क्योंकि सरकार की तरफ से कोई इसका खंडन नहीं हुआ है। तो क्या धीरेन्द्र ब्रह्मचारी जी ने आपके इरादे की जानकारी के बाद दौरा किया था क्या ... (व्यवधान) उनको एजेंसी मिलेगी

यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ... (व्यवधान)
उनको कहां ने यह जानकारी मिली ?

श्री जे.के.जैन : धीरेन्द्र ब्रह्मचारी का क्या मतलब है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know who is more irrelevant, Mr. Malik or you.

SHRI J. K. JAIN: You can decide that.

श्री शिवराज वी. पाटिल : छोटे एयरक्राफ्ट के बारे में हमारी जरूरत है मगर वे जो धीरेन्द्र ब्रह्मचारी की बात कर रहे हैं इसका कोई संबंध नहीं है। यह भ्रम है सर्वप्रथम पहले भी (व्यवधान) काम करने के लिए काफी मजबूत है, कर सकती है और यह जो कह रहे हैं यह ठीक नहीं है और यह बात जो है सत्य है।

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is well-known that HAL, i.e. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited of Bangalore, has spare manufacturing capacity today. I am also aware of the fact that the basic bottleneck in our aeronautics programme has been the lack of development of designing capacity. Now we have this new demand for a small aircraft, I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that while deciding about the aircraft the first parameter that he would take into consideration would be that the aircraft would be available to us immediately for assembly in India leading to progressive manufacture in accordance with the design modified according to our requirements. The outright or straight purchase of foreign aircraft should be completely ruled out from the very beginning. These are the two points I would like to ask.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There are two things involved in it. He has asked whether we are purchasing them from outside or whether we are going to manufacture them here. These two questions can be answered

only after knowing what number of aircraft we would be requiring. If the number of aircraft is small then we have to see whether it would be profitable to manufacture them here. If the number of the aircraft is going to be large, then it would be necessary for us to decide whether we are going to get simple technology or complete technology or whether they have certain other things available with them. After considering all these aspects, we can decide whether to manufacture them here or if the need is very urgent, we may buy them also, it is only after assessing the situation and considering all the points that we can take a proper decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Mrs. Monika Das. And then yours will be the last question.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI; Mine.

श्री समापति : आपको आगे चांस दिया जायेगा, आपका तो हर एक पर ही सवाल रहेगा ।

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS; I would like to know from the Defence Minister whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka or the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Karnataka about the 3rd level service. Based On an evaluation of all the outstanding aircraft, the twin-engined Otter of de Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada is the most suited aircraft for the third level requirements of Karnataka people. So, I want to know from the Defence Minister when they are going to start that one because, Sir, I am from Hubli. We are finding it very difficult to go from here to Hubli. If that comes, Hubli also will be connected. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister when they are going to decide the third-level aircraft. (Interruptions). It is

not Civil Aviation. It is the Defence Ministry. - -

MR. CHAIRMAN; You don't converse there. What is your question?

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS; I want to know whether the Government of Karnataka received any proposal recently from the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and whether they have written to the Defence Minister or not, and whether you have received it or not.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL; Sir, probably, the hon. Member wants to know whether any Federation has written any letter to the Government of Karnataka. Well, it will not be possible for me to say whether they have written any letter to the Government of Karnataka. But, at least, as far as my knowledge goes, I have not received any letter from the Government of Karnataka. I shall have to check it. But as far as my knowledge goes, we have not received any letter.

श्री हरि सिंह नलवा : चेयरमैन साहब, क्या मैं मंत्री साहब से यह पूछ सकता हूँ कि एयरक्राफ्ट मैन्युफैक्चर करने के बारे में— किसी किसम का भी एयरक्राफ्ट, लेटेस्ट बन-कोलैबोरेशन की बात सरकार क्यों सोचती है, जबकि हमारे देश के अंदर काफी ऐसे इंजीनियर हैं कि उन्हें के अन्दर उनका मुकाबला किसी भी कंपनी का इंजीनियर नहीं कर सकता ।

तो क्या मंत्री जी यह फरमायेंगे कि डिफाल्ट कहाँ पर है, गवर्नमेंट की मशीनरी में कोई डिफाल्ट है, जिसकी वजह से इंजीनियर यहाँ मैन्युफैक्चर नहीं कर सकते, या प्रैक्टिस का डिफैक्ट है या कोई आपोजीशन पार्टी ऐसा मड़वड़ी कर देते हैं किनसे काम नहीं हो पाता ? ... (व्यवधान)

श्री शिवराज वी. पाटिल : माननीय सदस्य जानना चाहते हैं कि क्यों हमारे इंजीनियर और जो एक्सपर्ट्स हैं, उनकी मदद से यहाँ पर हवाई-जहाज क्यों नहीं बनाते ।

मैं इसके संबंध में कहना चाहूंगा कि यहाँ हमारे पास जो भी जानकारी है, उसका हम जल्द उपयोग करना चाहेंगे। मगर आज दुनिया के अन्दर हवाई जहाज के संबंध में इतना कुछ लगा आगे बढ़ा है कि अगर उसका हम फायदा न लें और उसके ऊपर जो हम कर सकते हैं, वह न करें तो जायद दुनिया के साथ कसम मिलाकर चलना मुश्किल हो जाएगा। जो बाहर मालूम हो चुका है, उसको भी हम लेना चाहते हैं। हमारे साथ जो है, उसके साथ मिलना चाहते हैं और उसके साथ हम एक नया हवाई-जहाज बनाया चाहते हैं। जो बहुत दिनों तक हमारे काम में आ सके। जो हमारे साथ मौजूद है, उसका हम जल्द उपयोग करेंगे। ... (बसवारा)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing in this and everybody wants to put a question. Now, question No. 222.

*222. [The Questioners (Shri Swami Dinesh Chandra and N. K. P. Salve) were absent. For answer vide col. 31-32 infra.]

*223. [The questioners (Shri Syed Ahmed Hashmi and Shri Ng. Tompok Singh) were absent. For answer vide col. 32 infra.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 224 — Shri Khobragade.

H o:-vrt<:ndation, of the Minorities Com mission

*224. SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: SHRI F. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations, of the Minorities Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

+The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. D. Khobragade.

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations, if so, by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The Minorities Commission have so far submitted two Annual Reports for the year ending 31st December 1978 and 31st December, 1979 respectively. Both these Reports along with the Action-Taken-Memo-randa were placed on the Table of the House on the 9th July, 1980 and 22nd December, 1980, respectively.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir, I am not putting the supplementary but my first objection is that I had asked, the question about the 1980 report because it was supposed to be presented to the Government very recently and my question referred to that. My question was, whether the 1980 report has been submitted to the Government or not? There is no reply to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that the Report along with the Action Taken-Memoranda has been placed on the Table of the House. What remains?

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir, I am talking about the 1980 report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think you have seen what has been laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir, my question is whether the Chairman of the Commission has submitted the report for 1980 and, if so, what are the recommendations thereof, and, if not, when it will be submitted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer is there that it has been laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir, 1978 and 1979 reports have been placed on the Table of the House. My question is whether the report for 1980 has been submitted by the Com-