

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 13th March, 1980/the
23rd Phalgun, 1901 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
day in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, I have pleasure in introducing to you and through you to the House my colleague, Dr. Charanjit Chanana, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Probe into Jaguar deal

*41. SHRI PRAKASH MEHRO-

TRA:

SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA:

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a probe has been launched into the Jaguar deal with foreign companies entered into by the previous Government;

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

(c) which are the other deals of the previous Government pertaining to the Ministry of Defence which come within the purview of the probe referred to at part (a) above;

(d) by when the probe is likely to be completed; and

(e) whether any communication from British authorities has been received in regard to this probe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prakash Mehrotra.

1244 RS—1.

श्री प्रकाश मेहरोत्रा : मान्यवर, जगुआर डील को लेकर देश में बहुत विवाद उत्पन्न हो गया है। जो तकनीकी आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं उनकी अगर आप तुलना करें तो देखेंगे कि जगुआर की जो रफतार है वह साउंड की रफतार से केवल डेढ़ टाइम्स है जबकि विगन की रफतार दुगुनी है और मिराज की रफतार जो है वह लगभग सवा दो गुना है।

इसी तरीके से जगुआर का जो टैंक आफ रन है वह 580 मीटर का है, जबकि विगन का 400 मीटर का है और मिराज का 450 मीटर का है। इसी प्रकार जगुआर का जो एयर टू एयर मिसाइल कार्रेंज है वह केवल 20-25 मील का है; जबकि विगन और मिराज का 40-45 मील का है। जगुआर का जो टर्निंग रेडियस है वह छ : किलोमीटर का है जबकि विगन का केवल 3.2 किलोमीटर है और मिराज का 2.3 किलोमीटर है।

इसी तरीके से जगुआर का जो फायरिंग साइट वर्क्स है वह लैंसर पावर करता है जिससे यह होना है कि फाग में, क्लाउडी वैदर में, रेनी वैदर में इस प्लेन का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा सकता, जिसका मतलब यह है कि लगभग सात महीने इस प्लेन का इस्तेमाल हम नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसीलिए आर० ए० एफ० ने इस प्लेन को आब्सोलीट माना है और...

श्री सभापति : सवाल क्या है ?

श्री प्रकाश मेहरोत्रा : सवाल के लिए जनाब पहले बैकग्राउंड समझिये, जो आप लोगों ने घपला किया है उसको समझिये। सुनिये।

तो मान्यवर, जो आर० ए० एफ० ने इसको आब्सोलीट करार दिया है और वे टारनेडो प्लेन जो है उसे लेने जा रहे हैं। एयर मार्शल मूलगर्वकर, एक टेस्ट पायलट और एक एक्सपर्ट ने अपनी ओपिनियन इसके खिलाफ दी है।

दूसरी तरफ, मान्यवर, स्थिति क्या है। हमारी सीमाओं पर टेन्शन बनी हुई है, खतरा है और सेमी-वार कंडिशन हैं। आसपास के जो देश हैं उनको सोफिस्टिकेटेड वैपस दिये जा रहे हैं। तो, मान्यवर, न केवल हमें अपनी ग्रामंड फोर्सेज को माइनिंग वैपस और एक्विपमेंट देने चाहिये जिससे उनका मारेल जो है वह बना रहे, बल्कि इस तरीके के आम्बोल्ड प्लेन देने से उनका जो मारेल है, वह गिरेगा।

तो ऐसी स्थिति में मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या फिर से इन दी लाइट आफ आल दिस और कप्टी की सुरक्षा को देखते हुए इस डील को क्या वे रि-एक्जामिन करेंगे और जो सब से ज्यादा सुटेबल, एफिशेंट, बीप-पेनिट्रटिंग एयरक्राफ्ट है उसको देख कर लेने की कृपा करेंगे।

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The hon. Member has raised a point which seems to have got the whole nation involved. If these complaints are sent to us, we will definitely have them examined.

श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा : मेरा दूसरा सवाल है मान्यवर, इस विषय पर चर्चा इस सदन में पहले भी हो चुकी है और ये सब बातें कही जा चुकी हैं फिर भी अगर माननीय मंत्री महोदय कहेंगे तो हम लोग लिख कर उन को भेजेंगे। मैं समझता हूं कि देश की सुरक्षा का जो प्रश्न है वह राजनीति की परिधि से पड़े होना चाहिए। किन्तु समाचारपत्रों में बहुत कुछ इस विषय को लेकर खबरें प्रकाशित हुई हैं। समाचारपत्रों में यह कहा गया है कि कोई मिस्टर एस० बी० छिब्बर हैं जो लंदन में रहते हैं, वे ग्राम्स डील का काम करते हैं, उन का इससे संबंध है। अखबारों में यह भी निकला कि 20 दिसम्बर 1977 को जगजीवन बाबू, जो डिफेंस मिनिस्टर थे, उन्होंने जगुआर कंपनी के कोई जी० बी० गिल हैं उनको कोई पत्र लिखा मिस्टर छिब्बर को रिक्मंड करके। उन्हीं छिब्बर की गाड़ी जगजीवन राम के पुत्र सुरेश यहां इस्तेमाल करते हैं। ऐसा भी

अखबार में आया है कि उस गाड़ी के डैश बोर्ड में जगुआर डील के संबंधित पत्र निकले हैं। इसलिए मान्यवर, बहुत शंका उत्पन्न हो गई है और इस शंका का समाधान होना चाहिए और इसीलिए मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा हूँ। यह आवश्यक है कि इन पहलुओं से इस पर प्रोब होना चाहिए, इसकी इन्क्वायरी होनी चाहिए और यदि कोई पोलिटिकल प्रभाव का या किसी और तरीका का कोई कंसिडरेशन इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ है तो वे सब बातें सामने आनी चाहिए, देश के सामने उन चीजों को लाना चाहिए...

एक माननीय सदस्य : सवाल क्या है ?

श्री प्रकाश मेहरोत्रा : सवाल यह है कि उसकी इन्क्वायरी करके उन तमाम बातों को सामने लाना चाहिए। (Interruptions)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I want to draw your attention, Sir. Yesterday when we took the name of some members of their party in the Lok Sabha, they objected. Now they have referred to some names of members in the other House. But we are happy. But let them also be fair to others.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, some of these things have come to our notice. It is not a question as to who made the deal. The question, as the hon. Member has rightly put in perspective, is whether this is the best aircraft, more suited to the needs of our Air Force considering the vast developments which are taking place in the Air Forces in the rest of the world. So, it is from that point of view that we shall certainly look into the matter and any other specific complaint which the hon'ble members have, can be put up. As the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, all these matters have come out in the public, that is, the comparative advantages and the disadvantages of the various planes available.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, I appreciate the modification of the reply that the Minister gave when he said that there will be no probe . . .

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The question is: Is there a probe?

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: As the Prime Minister rightly said, this matter has been agitated both on the floor of the House and in the Press and I do not think, Sir, complaints have not been made and I am sure, the Government would take cognizance of what has already been agitated . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: I do not want, therefore, to go into that question. But I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether Jaguar aircraft is being used or is being discarded by Britain herself which is manufacturing it and is replacing it by a more modern and effective aircraft known as Tornado and whether only three countries in the world at present are using it; one is Oman in the Gulf countries, then a Latin American country and India. As against that, Sir, Mirage is being used by more than 24 countries including Pakistan. Now, Sir, that also poses a question as far our security is concerned in terms of what aircraft should be used when we have to think in terms of our own defence. Arising out of this, I would like to know whether it is possible for the Government to cancel this deal in view of the fact that France has offered to compensate whatever penalty that we may have to pay in this regard. Further, I would also like to know whether a similar aircraft could be obtained from the Soviet Union or some other friendly countries. My friend has also referred to Viggen which because of political pressure from the U.S.A. could not be obtained. Now, in view of these things, I would like to know what exactly is the at-

titude of the Government because these are well-known facts.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The hon. Member has pointed out some facts. But Sir, I would like to inform him that even France is using the Jaguar and regarding this . . .

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: I talked of Britain.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: You said only Oman and so on.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Alright. You can include partially France.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There may be other countries.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why don't you go into the Chamber and settle this?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: We have no information in regard to this French Government offer at the moment.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: I asked whether a better aircraft could be obtained from the Soviet Union? What about Viggen?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The Viggen was offered to us. Offered means, the proposal was put before us. It is available for sale. It is not being offered free. Some other planes were also offered. It was in the balance of all these that we were going into the matter in great detail when our Government fell. The next Government went into the matter and they decided on the Jaguar.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Your Government did not fall. Our Government fell.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It failed in ways more than one.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I would request hon. Members not to read more into my statement than

what I had intended. The specific question was: 'Is there a probe?' The answer was 'No'. It does not mean that we will necessarily have a probe. All I said was that this information is available. Our Airforce as well as the other departments of the Government are constantly looking into these things to see what meets our needs. We cannot afford to be caught napping, specially in defence matters.

श्री किशन लाल शर्मा : श्रीमन्, तत्कालीन रक्षा मंत्री ने यह बात कही थी कि इस सौदे पर वित्त मंत्री की मेक्शन ली गयी थी, लेकिन तत्कालीन वित्त मंत्री जी ने इस का प्रतिवाद किया कि मेरी कोई स्वीकृति नहीं थी, मैं तो उस समय केबिनेट का भी सदस्य नहीं था। कृपया यह स्पष्ट करने का कष्ट करें।

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We have no knowledge of this.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister of Defence when they have stated that the basic problem here is the security of the country and a proper aircraft to deal with all eventualities in case of attack . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We all know that. But what is the question?

SHRI PILOO MODY: We all need a good aircraft. We need to strengthen our defences.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am not briefing the Government as their Members are . . . (*Interruptions*).

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, I object to this. This kind of aspersion should not be allowed. We have as much right to question the Government as they have. To say that we are briefing is something . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY: As the Prime Minister has rightly said, you must keep quiet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The basic point that has been highlighted is in connection with the security and in the light of that I was trying to frame my question. The hon. Member has given a number of other proposals and has just now spoken about the Miraj, the Viggen, the Hunter or whatever it is. Now I want to say that when the ex-Janata Government was there it had informed us that at the time when a decision in this respect was being taken, a computerised survey was made, every assessment was made and only after all that the Jaguar was found to be suitable. Now I want to know from the Government, on what basis the Government is thinking that the computerised assessment was wrong. I want a reply to that question.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Sir, I have already said that we are not thinking on those lines, but if the Members of the hon. House or the people of India keep on pointing out new facts, we will certainly look into them.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I wanted to know how the computerised assessment was wrong.

SHRI PILOO MODY: It is the Members who are honourable and not the House.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: My Government does not know what facts were fed into the computer. Nor are we prepared to believe in the infallibility of the computer.

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : श्रीमन्, मेहरोत्रा जी और डा. जकरिया ने जो सुझाव दिये हैं मैं वे दोहराना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जनता

पार्टी के मंत्रिमण्डल के कुछ सदस्यों ने और जनता पार्टी के संसद सदस्यों ने भी इस डील के बारे में एतराजात उठाए थे और देश के दूसरे लोगों ने इसके बारे में काफी एतराजात उठाए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उस जनता पार्टी गवर्नमेंट ने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई जांच बिठाई थी और यदि बिठाई थी तो उस जांच के क्या परिणाम आप के सामने आये हैं।

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: I am not aware of any inquiry made by the Government.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय, क्या सरकार को पता है कि जगुआर को सामने रखते हुए या जो दूसरे एयरक्राफ्ट हैं उन को सामने रखते हुए इंडियन ओशन में जो अमरीकी बी-52 बड़े-बड़े बाम्बर्स आ गए हैं, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि चाहे आप के जगुआर हों, मिराज हों, हल्कर हों, जो हों वे सब कैपेबिल हैं उन के मुकाबले के लिए या नहीं ?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: I do not think this falls within the purview of the main question.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : सभापति महोदय बिल्कुल सवाल के तहत है।

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: What is this? I have been raising my hand right from the beginning of this question. I have repeatedly been raising my hand, but you are neither saying 'no', nor 'yes'. You look to those sides only and not to our side.

कोई नज़र हमारी तरफ भी तो चाहिए, हम सामने बैठे हैं।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय जगुआर की ताकत के बारे में सवाल है। जगुआर की कितनी क्षमता है ? मैं समझता हूँ कि बी. 52 बाम्बर ज्यादा क्षमता वाले हैं। उस के मुकाबले के लिए आप के पास

एयरक्राफ्ट हैं या नहीं, यह सवाल है। भारत आप का ही नहीं है, हमारा भी है। यह भारत की सुरक्षा का सवाल है।
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this is a Question Hour. It is not a debating hour.

SHRI PILOO MODY: No, Sir, It is not a Question Hour only; it is a question-and answer hour. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: American bombers have come into the Indian Ocean. Whether Indian aircraft are in a position to meet the threat or not—that is my question. The Minister must reply. (Interruptions).

SHRI PILOO MODY: If they cannot reply, can I reply for them?

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: A separate notice is required for that.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: Very specific questions have been asked and I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister has not replied to them. I asked one such question. One of these questions was that this aircraft was rejected by the British Air Force because of its uselessness and inefficiency. Other Members asked if the Government knew about it. It is there in all the papers all over the world. I would beg to ask the hon. Minister this question again whether he knows about it, or whether the Government of India knows about the fact that the British Air Force has rejected this aircraft because of its uselessness and inefficiency and if that is so, why should we go and buy it?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Sir, I am not sure whether the information with the hon. Member is right, or the alleged computer was right.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: It is surprising.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Mr. Chairman, is the Government aware that all the facts that have been mentioned in this House were repeatedly brought up through questions and through a Half-an-Hour Discussion in this very House which went for over one hour? It was clearly brought out that at the time this deal was made, this aircraft was already obsolete. All the shady deals were brought up. But this was not being cancelled then because the contract that had been entered into involved millions and millions of rupees even if the contract was rejected at that moment. And the question that arises out of that is this. The last Government, after this House had drawn its attention to all the facts which my colleagues are giving now, did not cancel it. Will this Government assure the House that national interest will not be sacrificed and if all the allegations that we have been making for two years were proved correct, this deal will be cancelled and a proper aircraft will be secured in view of the more serious situation that has arisen on the borders of our country now?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Firstly, I am informed that the R.F. has not rejected the Jaguar; it is using it. So far as the other question of the hon. Member is concerned, I have already said that at all times we must keep the national interest in front of us. We have already seen what the news papers have said or what was said here. But before announcing whether we shall have a probe or not, we should know more about it. That is why I said we shall keep abreast of all these opinions and do whatever is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Jaguar was on display on the Air Force Day and the Air Force officers and the Defence Ministry had invited M.Ps to see their performance and whether . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir, kindly allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Please sit down. When I stand, please sit down.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir, it was the Defence Ministry of the present Government which had invited MPs to see the performance of that Jaguar on the Air Force day. I want to put that question. It is relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we have had enough 'uran' in the Jaguar.

अब कोई दूसरी चीज में उड़ान भरेंगे, जगुवार में ही उड़ान नहीं भरते रहेंगे। सारा दिन जगुवार में नहीं बीतेगा।

Transfer of CBI Officials

*42. SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:†

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the C.B.I. officers transferred or forced to go on leave during the period from the 10th of January, 1980 to the 10th March, 1980; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers transferred were incharge of the prosecution or had processed the cases arising out of the Shah Commission and Maruti Commission reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):

(a) and (b) The following C.B.I. Officers have been repatriated to their respective State cadres from 10th January, 1980 to 10th March, 1980 for administrative reasons:—

(1) Shri R. D. Singh, Director (Bihar).

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ladli Mohan Nigam.