

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 11th May, 1970/the 11th
Vaisakhi, 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANUFACTURE OF INDIGENOUS DEFENCE EQUIPMENT

*238. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the
Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under
Government consideration to establish a unit
for the manufacture of indigenous defence
equipment in the Public Sector; and

(b) if so, what products will be
manufactured and what is the anticipated
investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE
PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and
(b) A Statement is filed on the Table of the
House.

STATEMENT

(a) It is not clear which particular
unit the Hon'ble Member has in mind.
It has been decided to set up :

(i) A second unit of Bharat Electronics
Ltd. at Ghaziabad;

(ii) A microwave production unit in the Public
Sector at Hyderabad;

(iii) A new unit of the Bangalore
Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.;
and

(iv) A new unit of Hindustan
Aeronautics Ltd. at Lucknow.

(b) The products that will be manu-
factured in the above mentioned units
are :—

(i) Micro-wave and Radar equipment;

(ii) Anti Tank Missiles;

(iii) Light Aircraft and Helicopters;
and

(iv) Aircraft accessories and ins-
truments respectively.

The capital cost of the unit at Ghaziabad,
excluding the Township, is estimated at Rs.
11.5 crores, while that

199 R.S

of the unit at Hyderabad is estimated at Rs.
3.20 crores. A tentative estimate of the capital
cost of the unit at Bangalore is Rs. 2.8 crores.
The capital cost of the unit at Lucknow is Rs.
4.5 crores.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : To meet the
requirements of the Army and particularly to
meet the challenges from our neighbours
Pakistan and China, it is absolutely necessary
that we improve the teeth-to-tail ratio of the
hardware supplied to the Army. In this
connection I want to know whether the Gov-
ernment have taken certain steps to instal
certain units to improve the production of
microwave and radar equipment, anti-tank
missiles, light aircraft, etc. Increased self-
reliance is required in the defence production
units for developing some systems design. In
this connection was there a plan made by the
Government for modernising the Army and
may I know whether any other countries had
promised certain aid to modernise our Army
and, if so, which were the countries which
promised aid, what is the result, how much
aid has come and what is the present progress
in the production of these items?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We are moving in
the direction of modernising our Army and
considerable progress has been made. If the
hon. Member looks into the Annual Report of
the Defence Ministry this year, he will find
that we have moved very fast in modernising
all the three wings. About aid we have not
received any military aid from any country,
but we have made purchases from a number
of countries. Some countries stuck to their
commitments and in the case of some
countries it is a fact that they have lagged
behind. We are trying to make purchases from
them also.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Before asking
my second question, the Minister replied that
no country has promised aid and another point
he said...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a question
relating to aid.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I said: certain
countries have promised assistance in
modernising the Indian Army. That was my
specific question. The Minister replied...

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : How is it
relevant?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Why are you interrupting me?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, please put your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : This is too serious a matter. You may be joking but I am not.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : On a point of order. How does the modernisation of the Army arise out of this question?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : It is defence production.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I am on a point of order. Mr. Kulkarni, please sit down.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Are you not interested in this?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The question is, whether there is any proposal under Government consideration, to establish a unit for the manufacture of indigenous defence equipment in the public sector; and, if so, what products will be manufactured and what is the anticipated investment. The question is about one unit. How does the whole defence production, the modernisation of the Army, the foreign aid received for defence and the whole defence policy come under this question? I request you to uphold my point of order and please so regulate the supplementaries that unnecessary questions not arising out of the original question are not asked and the time of the House is not wasted by some people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Kulkarni, please keep within the question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I have a submission to make. I totally oppose what my hon. colleague has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, I hold that it is not within the question to ask about matters of military aid.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I did not say military aid. I said foreign assistance for modernising the Army and it comes under production.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask questions about defence equipment and units for defence equipment, not foreign aid for modernising the Army, etc.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Perhaps I might have been misunderstood by my colleagues.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It appears you are misunderstood and we are taking several minutes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : My first question was whether any countries have promised assistance to modernise our Army through the supply of defence production equipment and, if so, what is the progress made in the modernisation scheme. Secondly, I wanted to know, in order to develop the teeth-to-tail ratio in the Indian Army, whether the defence production units are taking active steps to produce sophisticated electronic equipment. That was my first question and after his reply I will ask my second question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question was not clear.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have already said that so far as assistance from foreign countries is concerned, it is in the shape of purchases only. We make purchases from the East European countries and also from some West European countries and also the United States. We do not take aid as such for any of the Services, Army, Navy or Air. The progress in this regard has been satisfactory. A number of countries, barring one or two, whom I would not like to name here, have stuck to their commitments.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Why ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : About the teeth-to-tail ratio—we have made satisfactory progress. We have had two defence plans. The first defence plan period is over. We have entered into the second and satisfactory progress in the direction of modernising the Indian Army is being made and if the hon. Member looks into the Annual Report and also the speeches made by me and the Defence Minister in the Lok Sabha, I think he will be fully satisfied.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to know specifically whether the USA and the UK had promised assistance to the Indian Government to modernise the Army and whether they have lagged behind. Please reply specifically. Secondly, I would like to know what is the value of the imported defence equipment and items and how far your defence production units, the new units, are going to reduce our dependence on other countries for the import of certain items for our defence.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I might say that we have a programme for import substitution and within a period of five years, that is in the Fourth Five Year Plan we want to achieve a figure of Rs. 200 crores in the matter of import substitution. We have already placed orders worth Rs. 42 crores on indigenous sources in respect of items which we have been importing from outside so far.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मंत्री महोदय ने जैसा कि अभी स्वयं स्वीकार किया कि लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपये का देशीय रक्षा उपकरण हमको चाहिये। तो क्या यह बात सच है कि अभी तक हम केवल 33.37 करोड़ रुपये का देशीय रक्षा उपकरण का निर्माण कर रहे हैं और क्या इस कमी को शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिये पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में इस बात का उल्लेख किया है :

"In the Committee's view if import substitution is to be achieved in the next five years, as the Government are reported to be planning, then a larger civil capacity will have to be mobilised for the purpose."

तो इस मुद्दा की पूर्ति के हेतु इस रिपोर्ट के आने के बाद ऐसे कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं जिससे कि यह 200 करोड़ के देशीय रक्षा उपकरण की पूर्ति जीघ्र की जा सके ?

श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र : जहाँ तक सिविल सेक्टर का सवाल है यह 200 करोड़ रु० सिविल सेक्टर के लिये है इम्पोर्ट सब्स्टीट्यूशन और अगर उन्होंने समझा हो कि डिफेन्स प्रोडक्शन पर 37 करोड़ साव में खर्च करते हैं तो भ्रम है। माननीय सदस्य अनुअल रिपोर्ट देखेंगे तो 50 करोड़ रु० की उत्पत्ति जो 1962-63 में थी उसको उठाकर हमने 194 करोड़ रु० केवल आर्डिनेन्स फैक्टरीज में किया है। इसके अलावा हमारे जो 7 पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग हैं उनका प्रोडक्शन भी है, रक्षा उत्पादन का वह ढाई सौ, पौने 3 सौ करोड़ रु० का प्रोडक्शन हुआ है। जहाँ तक 200 करोड़ रु० के इम्पोर्ट सब्स्टीट्यूशन की बात है जो पब्लिक अकाउंट्स कमेटी में आया, हम 200 करोड़ का सिविल सेक्टर पर आर्डर देना

चाहते हैं, इम्पोर्ट सब्स्टीट्यूशन के लिये और उनको हम हर किस्म की मदद देना चाहते हैं। उनको तकलीफ होती थी, अगर हम 5 लाख की चीज देना चाहते थे तो तीन चार लाख की उनकी पूंजी लग जाती थी जिससे वह उसे नहीं बना सकते थे। हमने कहा है उनको रिपीट आर्डर देंगे, तीन चार साल तक, देंगे जिससे मुनाफा हो सके और उनको इन्स्टिट्यूट मिल सके और उसी तरह से उनको फारेन एक्सचेंज की आवश्यकता होगी मशीन के लिये, वह उनको देंगे, और उनको आवश्यकता होगी "नो-हाऊ" की, उसको भी हम देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन एक बात साफ कर देना चाहता हूँ कि सिविल सेक्टर में वही आइटम देना चाहते हैं जो हम अपनी यूनिट में, पब्लिक सेक्टर में, नहीं बना सकते हैं और जो बाहर से लाना पड़ता है। जो हम बना सकते हैं या पब्लिक सेक्टर बनाता है वह चीज हम सिविल सेक्टर को नहीं देना चाहते हैं।

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : In view of the fact that the entire region to the east of East Pakistan is surrounded by two hostile countries and is linked with the rest of the country by a very narrow corridor which has the risk of being snapped by either China or Pakistan or by both in collusion at the time of any armed conflict with either, thereby causing serious dislocation to the supply of necessary defence equipments to the Indian army stationed in that region, have the Government thought of establishing any unit in that region for the manufacture of indigenous defence equipment, if not, will the Government consider such a proposal seriously; if not, what arrangements have been made to meet such an emergency?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We are aware of the particular situation in that region of the country and have made all necessary arrangements. So far as a unit of defence production is concerned, we have no such proposal at the moment.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether the Government has any pro-

posal to increase the production and manufacture of indigenous defence equipment only in the public sector and in that case no private sector unit would be allowed to manufacture the defence equipment? Is it the policy of the Government? If so, what steps they have already taken in the matter of increasing the manufacture of defence equipment?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have already answered this question in answer to the question put by Shri Bhandari. I have said that we have a proposal for manufacturing in the civil sector also. But it is a fact that we have a preference for the public sector, our own factories.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: In the statement it is mentioned that a public sector unit will be set up at Hyderabad. Things have not moved fast. Still there is stagnation. The missiles that we are using are from Russians and from the British, and these anti-tank missiles which we are having are French anti-tank missiles. May I know whether the Government is trying to standardise the anti-tank missiles and also trying to do something about the newer types that are coming? What are they going to do about that? What research and development are they doing about it. Only Rs. 18 crores have been provided for research and development. How are they going to meet the new challenges in respect of defence equipment in the future?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as the allocation of funds is concerned for defence research, perhaps the hon. Member has not looked into the previous allotments. From Rs. 8.9 crores it came to about Rs. 11 crores; from Rs. 11 crores it became Rs. 13 crores; and now we have got Rs. 18 crores. We feel that according to the plans we have at the moment it is sufficient to meet our requirements. About anti-tank missiles which we are going to manufacture it is a fact that we are having collaboration with a West European country. He referred to the Russian missiles and British missiles. Russian missiles are for a different purpose. I do not think we have any British missiles at the moment, if my memory is correct.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : My question was whether there was stagnation in the production of missiles at Hydera-

bad? If so, what was the reason? How are you going to expedite the whole thing?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: It is going according to schedule. Collaboration has been entered into and funds have been provided, and we have got a schedule for it. It is going according to schedule and there would be production in time.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : May I know whether the Government has prepared any list of war weapons to be produced; whether the centres for manufacture of those weapons are selected; and whether Avadi in Tamil Nadu is included in the list?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We have got a plan for manufacture of different items. In Avadi there is a very important factory. We manufacture Vijayanta tanks there.

RELEASE OF INDIANS IN PORTUGUESE JAILS

♦239. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : SHRI RAM SAHAI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have recently initiated any discussions with some friendly countries to press the Government of Portugal to free Shri Mascarenhas, a freedom fighter from the Portuguese jail;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Portugal have offered to release one of the Indian captives captured by Portugal during the Goa Liberation Movement for one Portuguese prisoner who is completing his term of sentence in an Indian jail; and

(d) if so, what has been the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) As the House has been informed on 26th February, 1970, the Government of India are making efforts through diplomatic

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. P. Khaitan,