

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would not agree with me if I say that if they take too long for arriving at a decision they would be manufacturing obsolete M.I.Gs.? By the time they take a decision other countries would have progressed so far in the production of all kinds of vital planes, supersonics and others for their air force, that it would be too late for us to begin manufacturing those planes here. How can we keep pace with other countries if we keep on putting off our decision on what to manufacture?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : We do not manufacture obsolete planes. We manufacture the latest type of planes subject to our financial capacity, latest types of fighters, interceptors and bombers. So there is no question of our manufacturing obsolete planes. So far as M.I.G. 21 is concerned, it is going to be in service for a number of years to come and as I have stated earlier, we are going to have a new version of M.I.Gs. with added advantages, better striking power, better capacity and more of endurance.

^EXTENSION OF TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

*4i4- DR. SALIG RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANTJ:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up an internal satellite for extension of television and communication system in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : The matter is under examination by Government.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know by what time the examination will be completed and we will know the result and whether they are thinking of only hiring a satellite from a foreign country like the U.S.A. or trying to design it here and if they are trying to do that what ground network they are planning so that the relaying and receiving part can also be done at the same time so that there is no incongruity between the two functions ?

•(Transferred from the 8th August, 1969.

}7he question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : Madam, it is not possible for me to say how long it will take because this is a very important thing and they have to go into all the aspects. As far as the satellite is concerned no decision has been taken because that will depend on the results of the examination.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether before coming to an agreement necessary safeguards will be provided so that our channels are not in any way interfered with by others by remote control from the country from which the satellite will come and whether this satellite for which we are having negotiations will be used by some other countries also in this area and if so what are those countries?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : Madam, if we decide to take the satellite from other countries, naturally all safeguards will be provided,

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I know how long this matter has been under examination of the Government because the extension of television facilities in the country depends on the setting up of a satellite. In our country the people at large cannot have the benefit of the television system unless there is a satellite. As the Government must be aware the Delhi station serves only a very small area and the other stations proposed to be set up by the Government will similarly serve small areas only. So a satellite is the answer if the Government wants to make television facilities available all over the country. So what is being done to expedite it?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : It is a fact that a satellite is very much necessary to cover the whole country and particularly a country like India. As far as the television network goes we all know that it is limited to Delhi only now. There is an expansion programme and during the next five to seven years the television network will be expanded. As was said earlier, this satellite communication depends on so many things; the Committee is going into all the details of it and only after a detailed examination the Government can take a decision about it.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Minister whether any attempt has been made to work out the cost of the satellite and whether the fabrication of the satellite can be done in the country or we have to depend heavily on American or Soviet help?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Madam, the first satellite with two standbys will be provided by N.A.S.A. that is, the U.S.A. Later we hope to manufacture our own. Naturally we will have to import many of the components for it. As regards the cost I do not know whether we should give it now; these are not final figures. It was considered that about Rs. 30 crores should be allocated each year in the Fifth Plan.

BUFFER STOCK OF JUTE AND COTTON

♦526. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the suggestion made by the Planning Commission for the establishment of buffer stocks of jute and cotton;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity of the buffer stocks; and

(c) the period by which Government hope to build up the stocks?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Planning Commission was of the view that a buffer stock of jute was essential both from point of view of the primary producer as well as from point of view of the industry. In the case of jute, the essential element was price support operations through a suitable public agency. It was not considered necessary to indicate very firmly a level of buffer stocks to be built up by the end of the Fourth Plan. The State Trading Corporation has now been entrusted with the responsibility for maintaining support prices during the 1969-70 season. The Corporation will make purchases through cooperatives, traders and others at the minimum support price. Such quantity of raw jute purchased by the Corporation during the operations as are not disposed of within the season will be carried over as buffer stock to the next year. The actual quantity that will be carried over to the next year will depend upon various circumstances, such as, total quantity purchased and the quantity disposed of to mills during the season.

The question of creating a buffer stock of cotton is under consideration.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : मंत्रीम होदय ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसमें क्वांटिटी की बात नहीं बतलाई गई है, तो मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्लानिंग कमीशन ने कितनी क्वांटिटी जूट के लिए और कितनी क्वांटिटी काटन के बफर स्टॉक बनाने के लिए कहा है ?

श्री बी० आर० भगत : जैसा कि काटन के बारे में बतलाया गया है कि यह मामला अभी विचाराधीन है और एक कमेटी बैठी हुई है जो इस सारे पहलू पर विचार कर रही है । इसलिए इस समय क्वांटिटी का सवाल नहीं उठता है । जहाँ तक जूट का सवाल है, प्लानिंग कमिशन ने भी इस बारे में कोई क्वांटिटी की बात नहीं कही है । सवाल यह उठता है कि जब बफर स्टॉक का आपरेशन हुआ तो 40 रुपये का भाव हुआ । अगर इसके नजदीक जाय या इसके नीचे जायेगा तो फिर खरीददारी की बात हो सकती है । यह भाव पर निर्भर करता है कि कितनी क्वांटिटी खरीदी जायेगी और उस साल कितनी खपत होगी । जितना स्टॉक रह जायेगा वह कैरी फॉरवर्ड हो जायेगा । इन सब बातों पर यह बात निर्भर करती है और इसीलिए इस समय कोई खास क्वांटिटी बतलाना सम्भव नहीं है ।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : यह जो प्राइस 40 रु० मन की आपने बतलाई है यह कलकत्ता डेलिवरी की है, मगर आसाम के किसानों को क्या दाम मिलेंगे ।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : यह प्राइस तो कलकत्ता डेलिवरी की है । पूनिया या दूसरे आउटलाइंग डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स के जो ट्रांसपोर्ट चार्ज हैं वे कहीं 2 रु० हैं, कहीं 3 रु० हैं, कहीं 5 रु० हैं और आसाम के 6 या 7 रु० पड़ेंगे । एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमिशन ने इन बातों पर विचार कर के जो एक सिफारिश की, उसी सिफारिश को कैबिनेट ने माना और उसी के आधार पर प्राइस तय हुई है ।

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Government of West Bengal suggested to the Government of India