

a. question of words used. And he was told that this can only be done with the Nagaland authorities. He can talk if he wishes to.

GLIDER MANUFACTURE

*395. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of gliders so far manufactured by the Aircraft Manufacturing Depot, Kanpur;

(b) what is the percentage of indigenous content used; and

(c) how the cost compares with similar gliders manufactured abroad?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) 29, Sir.

(b) 90 per cent.

(c) No gliders have been imported in the recent years but in 1956 the landed price of a similar glider imported from U.K. was Rs. 17,230. As against this, the cost of a glider manufactured at A.M.D. is Rs. 16,500. I might add that the U.K. prices have since, I understand, gone up by 40 per cent.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, the capacity of this Depot and what are our immediate requirements for this sort of gliders?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: There is an order for about 300 gliders from the N.C.C. These will be manufactured over a period. At the present moment the capacity is four gliders a month, and by working multiple shifts it would be possible to increase it to a greater number.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: My question was: What is the capacity? How many have been manufactured so far?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I have already answered. If he wants to know about this particular year, I have not got the figures immediately.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: If pine wood which is being used in the manufacture of gliders is available in India, especially Kashmir, may I know, Sir, from the hon. Defence Minister what is the reason for importing pine wood from foreign countries, and whether the Kashmir pine has been tested and found suitable for the manufacture of gliders? If it is so, why do we not use it?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I am not quite sure, Sir, that we are importing any wood for this purpose. Something like 90 per cent, of this production is indigenous. Maybe there might be some difficulty about basic steel, aluminium alloy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jaipuria, you must have your fourth supplementary.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: According to the hon. Minister there was an order for 300 gliders. As against that only 29 have been manufactured. May I know, Sir, what other steps are being taken to increase the manufacture or is it being considered to import them?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: There is no question of import first of all. This is done in a phased programme. When the order is placed the capacity of the A.M.D. is taken into account.

RECRUITMENT TO I.A.F.

*396. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to relax the age limit for recruitment