

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 12th December, 1962/
the 21st Agrahayana, 1884 (Saka)

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

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON MIG PLANES

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
the Minister of DEFENCE be
sed to state:

whether the Government of India have entered into an agreement with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for getting the supply of MIG-21 fighter planes and for the manufacture of planes in India;

(b) if so, how many planes will be supplied to India and what will be the date of their delivery;

whether the Indian pilots have been trained on the planes regarding their performance and suitability to India; and, what is their report; and

where the factory or factories for the manufacture of such planes are proposed to be located?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the number of planes to be supplied and the mode of their delivery.

(c) The aircraft was evaluated by two of our test pilots before its selection was approved. It will not be in the public interest to disclose details of the evaluation report.

(d) It is proposed to set up two manufacturing units, one for the manufacture of the air-frame and connected equipment, and the other

for the manufacture of the engines. A survey of suitable sites was made and it is proposed to locate one unit in Maharashtra State and the other unit in Orissa State. The matter is under discussion with the State Governments.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that the MIG-21 planes have only two minutes' performance in the mid-air and because of that the U.S.S.R. manufactured only 400 planes and have now switched on to the manufacture of MIG-23 planes which have got better performance, the Government of India will now request the U.S.S.R. to supply us MIG-23 planes instead of MIG-21 planes and help us to manufacture MIG-23 planes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are making a suggestion and not putting a question.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
I am putting a question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you were making only a suggestion. What is your question?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
It is both, a question as well as a suggestion. Sir, my question is this: The MIG-21 planes have only two minutes' performance in the mid-air and because of that the U.S.S.R. manufactured only 400 planes and they have now switched on to the manufacture of MIG-23 planes which have got better performance. In view of that, will the Government now consider the desirability of not taking the supply of MIG-21 planes and instead ask the Government of the U.S.S.R. to supply us MIG-23 planes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I will not allow that question.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, may I ask the Minister whether this project is going according to schedule and whether there has been any delay on account of any reason whatsoever, including the recent developments in

regard to Russian participation in the implementation of the project?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, we earnestly hope and our information at the present moment is to the effect that it will go according to schedule, except in the matter of supply of a few planes, as already mentioned by the Prime Minister, due in December, there might be a slight delay.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether the MIGs to be given by Soviet Russia can be used for combat purposes against China? No question of public interest is involved, Sir. You cannot keep the country and the House in the dark. There have been reports that the supply of MIGs is being conditioned, that they will not be used against China.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: May I suggest, Sir, as the Prime Minister recently said, the planes are so few that they may not make much difference? The main thing is the manufacture of the planes.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, this is no reply. He is trying to evade the question. Are we not entitled to know whether the MIGs that we are getting from Soviet Russia can be used for combat purposes? Sir, on the 13th June, 1962 the Prime Minister was pleased to state—I am quoting—thus:

"But it is obvious that we must have complete freedom to use any aircraft or any weapon as we like."

Am I to understand that the Government has changed its position or the Soviet Union has imposed certain restrictions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr Vajpayee, is that not enough, what you have quoted? You want people to go on repeating themselves.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: We apprehend there is some shift in the stand of the Government. If the stand is not changed, why should the hon. Minister not reiterate it?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, I know nothing which is contrary to what has been stated by the Prime Minister and read out by the hon. Member.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Is it a fact that the test pilots who examined the MIG-21 planes gave a report to the effect that their performance in the mid-air was only of two minutes' duration?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, the hon. Member is asking for certain detailed particulars. I would seek the indulgence of the House not to press me to answer that.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: If the hon. Minister is not prepared to give the details, may I know whether this particular plane is an old model or a new model or the same model which the Chinese have?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid we are pressing the point a little too much. The information that was sought to be elicited has been elicited. I think we must stop at this stage.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the Government has not thought of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore for the manufacture of MIG planes there?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: We are already having, as the House knows, HF-24 which is also a supersonic plane, and various reasons have gone into the decision to have it at a different place.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: Sir, I would like to know whether any conditions are attached to the supply of aircraft.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to when he says 'any conditions'.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: Any conditions regarding the use of these aircraft?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Sir, I have already answered that in relation to the question put by Mr. Vajpayee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Prime Minister's statement should be enough.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: He has not said it. He said, 'I am not aware of it.'

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: Let him say that the Prime Minister's statement still holds good.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: I have said, Sir, that I know nothing contrary to what the Prime Minister has said. I have not said, 'I do not know the Prime Minister's statement.'

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, when the first plane, according to the schedule mentioned by the hon. Minister, would be manufactured in this country? When would the first plane come out of the factory, Sir?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: It will take some time, Sir.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: There must be some time schedule, Sir. Just now the hon. Minister has referred to some sort of time schedule—the manufacture of these planes will be going on according to schedule. I just want to know when the first plane would be available for us to be used in whatever way we want to use it, against China or against any other country. When would the first plane come out of the factory, Sir?

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I sympathise with your anxious curiosity, but the factories have not yet been established. You have, perhaps, to wait a little before you can get that information.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there is some time schedule. They can

easily say when the factory will go into production and when the first plane will be available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Minister like to say anything?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: As I said, more particularly in the present circumstances, I would beg of the House not to press me for these particulars.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We pass on to the next item.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE FERTILISER (CONTROL) EIGHTH AMENDMENT ORDER, 1962

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND FOR PLANNING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) Notification G.S.R. No. 1620, dated the 20th November, 1962, publishing the Fertiliser (Control) Eighth Amendment Order, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-654/62.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948

SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN: I also lay on the Table, under section 30-A of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, a copy of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Notification S. O. No. 3552, dated the 20th November, 1962, publishing certain amendments in Government Notification S.O. No. 2838, dated the 16th November, 1960 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-653/62.]