

other. It depends on the availability of space, the cost of construction and various other factors. Most of the Service Officers spend most of their time in very hard and rigorous conditions, so that wherever it is possible to give them more spacious accommodation, we try to provide it.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** May I know whether this special favour—I do not object if it is extended to others—is shown to the military officers living in Delhi, Calcutta and similar other cities, living a hard life compared to the civilian officers?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH:** The scale of accommodation in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, etc., has relation to the standard set up by the Central P.W.D. which is common to the civilian officers. In other places different circumstances obtain.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Some other consideration has entered into. May I know whether the Government has cared to find out from civilian officers that this is something which is not regarded as a very good practice in the affairs of administration?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is it? You are making a comment.

#### LONG-TERM PAYMENT FOR EQUIPMENTS PURCHASED FOR DEFENCE

\*717. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether long-term payments for equipments purchased for defence have been negotiated by his Ministry?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH):** There is only one case where long-term payments for equipment purchased for Defence Services have been arranged by this Ministry. This is in regard to the purchase of a Naval Ship from the U.K.

**SHRI M. VALIULLA:** May I know whether there is any practice in the Defence Ministry to purchase all articles directly from the firms or have they got any other agency?

69 RSD—2.

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH:** Sometimes it is done on a Government to Government basis, but very often through our Embassies abroad.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Is it a fact that on many occasions, specially in the Estimates Committee, certain observations are made, certain adverse comments are made with regard to the manner in which these purchases are made?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH:** I would request the hon. Member to pin it down to a particular remark, and then I will be in a position to answer it.

**SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** The hon. Minister said this was purchased, but he has not answered through which agency this purchase was made.

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH:** It was purchased from the British Admiralty.

**DR. NALINAKSHA DUTT:** May I know what was the foreign exchange involved and what was the rate of interest?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH:** This is the only case where we have been able to make a long-range arrangement, and then under the convention now operating it would not be permissible for me to disclose these things without consulting the British Admiralty and taking their approval.

#### RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS IN VEHICLE DEPOT, AVADI

\*718. **SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a periodical retrenchment of workers in the Vehicle Depot at Avadi;

(b) whether Government propose to close the Depot eventually; and

(c) the availability of covered accommodation for parking of vehicles in the Avadi Depot as compared to the availability of such accommodation in other Vehicle Depots in India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH):

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement showing the covered accommodation available for parking vehicles in the Vehicle Depot, Avadi, and similar accommodation available in other Vehicle Depots is placed on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Name of Vehicle Depot	No. of vehicles for which covered accommodation is available
Vehicle Depot Avadi	7,552
Vehicle Depot Delhi Cantr. (including Unfit Vehicle Park Meerut)	1,216
Vehicle Depot Panagarh	9,073
Vehicle Depot Dehu	1,247
Vehicle-Sub-Depot Secunderabad	1,900
CAFV Depot Kirkee	280
Vehicle Sub-Depot Bombay	831
Vehicle Sub-Depot Chheoki	1,141
Equipment and Vehicle Holding Depot Bangalore	591

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Has the Government received any representation from the Civil Employees Union at Avadi about the consequential retrenchment, and is the Government contemplating to afford any alternate employment for them?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: The Government have from time to time been receiving representations of the nature mentioned by my hon. friend, and we are doing everything possible to provide alternate employment for those who are likely to be discharged.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What are the steps that they have taken so far?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Actually it is expected that 316 industrial personnel of various types would be surplus here, and we have been contacting various other Defence installations to see how many of them could be absorbed. The information is still awaited.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Has not the Government received any communication from the Government of Madras in this regard?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: At the moment I cannot say offhand whether we have received any particular communication from Madras.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: If nearly 30 per cent. of the covered accommodation in this country is provided by the Avadi Vehicle Depot, what is the purpose in closing down this Depot?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: It is purely a matter of strategy, and it has been decided, considering strategic requirements, to have one for the Southern Command at Dehu. It is a matter of military requirement.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: I want to know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the resolution passed by the Madras Legislative Assembly requesting the Defence Ministry to start some Defence industries to absorb the personnel that will be thrown out of employment. If so, what action does the Central Government propose to take in the matter?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Independently of any resolution, we are also making efforts to see what other Defence installations can be located at Avadi.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

\*719. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestions were made by Government for inclusion in