

COUNCIL OF STATES

Saturday, 20th December 1952

The Council met at ten of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AGREEMENT WITH A FRENCH FIRM

15. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into an agreement with a French firm to set up a factory for the manufacture of wireless products for the use of the three Defence Services, Broadcasting, Communications and other Ministries ; and

(b) if so, the name of the French firm ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) :
(a) Yes.

(b) Campagnie Generale de Telegraphie Sans Fil (C. S. F.) France.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : The Prime Minister said some days ago in this House that the prevailing conditions in the French pockets in India were deteriorating. There were two alternative approaches, one is pressure at the diplomatic level and the other, war. May I know, Sir, whether the diplomatic level permits us to enter into an agreement with a French firm, especially in the case of the three Defence Services ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I do not think, Sir, that has anything to do with this. This is a big firm dealing with it. We have been carrying on negotiations with them for the past three years on an expert level. We are not putting them on the same level as the French possessions in India. It

has nothing to do with the French Government as such.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Sir, did we negotiate with any firms in England and Germany before concluding this agreement ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : Yes, various firms were contacted, offers were made and some were considered by us at the expert level again and again. This process has been going on for the last three years or more.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY : Is the contract revocable ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I do not know what the hon. Member means by asking whether it is revocable. It has been signed by us.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I know about the terms of this contract concluded with this French firm ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I am sorry I cannot go into the details of the contracts. They are complicated contracts.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know whether this particular French firm which the Prime Minister mentioned has not had a good reputation with regard to research and resources as the German and British firms ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a matter of opinion whether it is better or worse.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know whether it is advisable, at a time when our relations with France are deteriorating in this fashion, to go on entering into contracts with French manufacturers, especially in regard to the Defence Services ? What sort of moral pressure are we bringing to bear on France ?

(No answer.)

DELHI TRANSPORT SERVICE

22. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state :