

Cornwall and Partners Ltd. in this contract. I will certainly look into it.

PURCHASE OF ANTI-TANK GRENADES

*96. SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an order for French anti-tank grenades was placed with Sir James Marshall Curry & Co. in 1951, and whether this firm is controlled by or connected with Sir James Marshall Cornwall and Partners Limited;

(b) whether a further quantity of these grenades has been ordered recently; if so, whether it was ordered before or after the budget debate in May 1952;

(c) whether the order has been placed again with Sir James Marshall Curry & Co., if so, whether the price to be paid per grenade is lower than before; and

(d) whether Government are prepared to lay on the table a copy of the first contract entered into with the said contractor?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI): (a) I am not aware of any firm known as Sir James Marshall Curry & Co. and no order has been placed on any such firm. An order for rifles, a certain type of grenades and connected stores was, however, placed in 1951 with 'S.C.K.' (Agencies) Ltd. This firm was subsequently renamed "Sir James Marshall Cornwall and Partners Ltd."

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the contract with S.C.K. Agencies, Ltd. While I am prepared to show the document in confidence to the hon. Member, I would rather not lay it on the table. It contains certain information which from the security point of view it is not desirable to make public.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: With regard to the reply to the first part of the question, I may say that I took the name from the typed copy of the hon. Minister's speech in which he is reported to have said that the name of the firm in question was Sir James Marshall Curry & Co.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI: Was it my speech?

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Yes, here it is. It is a copy of your own speech.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI: I do not remember having used that name "Curry & Co." at all. It was perhaps the stenographer's mistake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it an uncorrected copy that the hon. Member is having? Or is it a corrected copy?

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: It is an uncorrected copy. But I think no reporter of ours could be so ignorant of English as to understand the letters 'S. C. K.' to mean Sir James Curry & Company, unless of course, he was in the know of the thing and knew what the letters 'S. C. K.' signified, as some of us do.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI: May I answer that question? I certainly did say "Sir James Marshall Cornwall and Partners Ltd." I certainly could not have used the expression 'S. C. K.' (Agencies) in that connection. At the time I spoke the contract was with Sir James Marshall Cornwall and Partners Ltd.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: When was it transferred then to 'S. C. K.'?

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI: In the course of 1951 the name was changed.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Beg your pardon? I could not follow the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said the name was changed in the course of 1951.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE

*95-A. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) if in view of population figures of Cuttack and Kharagpur towns according to 1951 census, Government have made any payment for House Rent Allowance to the Central Government Employees working in these cities; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): (a) and (b) The question of reviewing the classification of towns in the light of the 1951 census figures, for the purpose of the grant of Compensatory and House Rent Allowances is now under the active consideration of Government and the necessary orders will be issued as soon as a decision is reached.

SHRI B. RATH: But, Sir, may I know what is there to consider now? The figures are with the Government and the Report of the Central Pay Commission is also there with the Government, and the report has been accepted by Government. Then what is the matter now left for investigation?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: In fact, when the Central Pay Commission made their recommendations with regard to the giving of special rent allowances to employees on prescribed rates, they also stated that these rates should be decided on the basis of the populations of the various towns. When this recommendation was made the census figures were very old. So when on the 2nd of April 1947 we decided to determine the populations of the various towns, the figures of the Census Report of 1941 were made the basis of our calculations. But after that representations were received from various towns asking Government to review the position on the basis of the existing populations which had increased. As we had no other reliable figures we had to wait and after the recent census we got some provisional figures and we started our re-examination of the position, and since then orders

were issued again on the basis of the provisional figures. But now again the actual census figures have come in and we have now to base our decision on the actual figures of the latest census of 1951.

SHRI B. RATH: In how many cases have the provisional figures varied from the actual figures of population?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Well as an example I may give the case of Kharagpur about which my hon. friend is very anxious to know. According to the provisional figure Kharagpur did not come within the list of towns eligible for additional house rent, but according to the actual figures Kharagpur has a population of 1,29,636 and therefore we have to include Kharagpur now in the list.

SHRI B. RATH : Out of the.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question hour is over.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Luckily the question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PERMIT SYSTEM BETWEEN INDIA AND KASHMIR

*87. PROF. DINKAR: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permit system is operating between India and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, for what reasons?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI): (a) Yes.

(b) For reasons of security.

RECRUITMENT IN THE RARE EARTHS LTD.

106. SHRI M. MANJURAN: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) how many people are at present employed under the Rare Earths Ltd.; and