

# WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

B.B.C.'s COMMENT ON P.M.

\*383. { SHRI A. D. MANI:  
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in one of its broadcasts the British Broadcasting Corporation described Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, as a rank communalist;

(b) if so, what was the substance of the broadcast; and

(c) what action Government have taken in respect of a State-aided organisation in the United Kingdom which is being used for anti-Indian propaganda?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) That Shri Shastri, unlike Shri Nehru is not westernised and is a pious Hindu. He had his political apprenticeship under Shri Purushottamdas Tandon who was a nationalist of the extreme right and believed the Hindus to be chosen people. The broadcast conceded that this influence was certainly softened by working under Shri Nehru later.

(c) While no direct action against a State-aided corporation in U.K. is possible at our instance, our High Commissioner in U.K. impressed upon them the necessity of being at least factually correct. The High Commissioner himself and his officers gave interviews over BBC and Independent TV to explain India's case.

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES

\*386 { SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:  
SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN  
NAIR:  
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the steps Government

propose to take towards achievement of self-sufficiency in defence equipment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

*Steps taken towards achieving self-sufficiency in Defence Equipment*

1. The important steps taken for achieving self-sufficiency in Defence equipment are indicated in the following paragraphs:—

(i) *Ordnance Factories.*—(a) Four new Ordnance Factories were planned to be established. One has gone into production. The anticipated British and American Aid for the other two is under suspension; efforts are being made to establish them by procuring machinery from other sources. The fourth is being established under our own resources and is expected to go into production in 1966-67.

(b) The Ordnance Factories are also being geared up to produce more efficient weapons. As a result of the recent developments, production has been maximised commensurate with the requirement and priority of the Services.

(c) Production of stores for civil consumption in Ordnance Factories has been kept to the minimum and the resultant capacity diverted for the manufacture of Defence stores.

(d) The capacity in the civil sector is being increasingly utilised for the production of Defence stores.

(ii) *Vehicles and Engineering Stores.*—(a) A Heavy Vehicle Factory has been established for the production of tanks.

(b) A Vehicles Factory is being established for production of 3-Ton and 1-Ton trucks.