

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 18, 1966/Phalguna 27,
1887 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indigenous Production of Arms and
Ammunition

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*623. Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Supply and
Technical Development be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of
State made a statement in Hyderabad
on the 22nd of December, 1965 that
India had very nearly achieved com-
plete self-sufficiency in the production
of arms and ammunition:

(b) if so, what requirements and
norms was he referring to when he
made the statement; and

(c) what percentage of our overall
defence requirements are met by indi-
genous production at present in terms
of volume and value?

The Minister of Supply, Technical
Development and Social Welfare (Shri
Raghuramaiah): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Mr. Speaker, on
a point of order. So far as part (c)
of the question is concerned, it could
not in fairness or in logic be said
that it does not arise. It is a question
by itself. It is the main crux of the
question as to what is the indigenous
component of arms and ammunitions
manufactured in the country. How

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can the hon. Minister say that it does
not arise?

Shri K. Raghuramaiah: May I
explain? The question was whether
I made a statement at Hyderabad that
India had very nearly achieved com-
plete self-sufficiency in the production
of arms and ammunition....

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: That is part of
the question.

Shri K. Raghuramaiah: ... (b) if so,
what requirements and norms was he
referring to when he made the state-
ment; and (c) what percentage of
our overall defence requirements are
met by indigenous production at pre-
sent in terms of volume and value.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: How does it not
arise?

Mr. Speaker: In that context per-
haps he has said that it would not
arise. Now the hon. Member might
ask the question.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Let it be an-
swered.

Mr. Speaker: He might ask the
supplementary. I will examine fur-
ther if he can answer that.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: In view of the
answer now coming forward I would
like to know why this statement was
never contradicted. In what context
was the statement actually made by
the hon. Minister? What was the
statement that he made which he says
now was not made by him?

Mr. Speaker: The whole statement
cannot be narrated here. What did
he really say, in what context and
how was it misconstrued?

Shri K. Raghuramaiah: In the light of the Pakistani aggression I was referring to the need for enhanced indigenous production with special emphasis on import substitution. In that context, I praised the work done by the ordnance factories vis-a-vis arms production since 1962. Of course, the key of the general speech was the need for self-sufficiency in the economy of this country.

Mr. Speaker: Now Dr. Singhvi might ask his question.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I have no second question because part (c), as I submitted, is the main part of the question, and it has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Limaye:

श्री लक्ष्मण लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त जो फौजी हवाई जहाज, टैंक, तोपें और सब तरह की गोलियाँ . . .

Mr. Speaker: So far as part (c) is concerned, independently of the previous context, I think this information can be supplied.

Shri K. Raghuramaiah: Of course, I can state the general position.

Mr. Speaker: He can give the information later on.

Shri K. Raghuramaiah: If you will permit me, I will explain the position. I am concerned only with a portion of the work; so far as supplies from the civil sector or supplies from abroad and actual production of arms and ammunitions are concerned....

Mr. Speaker: He can collect the information and place it on the Table of the House.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas): I can give the information just now. The question of self-sufficiency is a relative term. It depends upon the size of our army, navy and air force and the type of weapons. As far as

weapons and ammunitions are concerned, we are fairly well-placed. Looking through last year's total purchase, they come to about a little over Rs. 360 crores out of which 75 per cent represent the indigenous supply. So, we have imported only 25 per cent. That will give an idea to the hon. Members of the extent to which we are relying on imports and to what extent we are relying on indigenous supplies.

श्री लक्ष्मण लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में जो फौजी विमान, टैंक, तोपें और सब तरह की गोलियाँ, एम्बुलीशन, जो बनाया जाता है—उनके पुर्जे वगैरह की तफसील के बारे में मैं नहीं जानना चाहता क्योंकि उसको वह सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से नहीं बता सकते—खैरिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो सारी चीजें हमारे देश में बनायी जाती हैं और जो विदेशों से मंगायी जाती हैं उनका बजट और मूल्य क्या है, मैं उनका बल्क और वैल्यू जानना चाहता हूँ ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have said that the total purchase comes to Rs. 368.92 crores, out of which roughly 75 per cent is indigenous supply and 25 per cent is foreign imports.

श्री लक्ष्मण लिमये : मेरा यह प्रश्न नहीं था मैंने चार चीजों के बारे में पूछा था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सुनिये ता, पहले ही बहने लगते हैं ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to tanks and other things, as the hon. House is aware, we have just started producing tanks.

Mr. Speaker: He only wanted to know the bulk and the value.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Bulk I have already given.

Mr. Speaker: It is value that he has given.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not proper to give the bulk supply, that is, the number.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether there is any proposal to entrust the manufacture of arms and ammunitions to the private sector; if so, to what extent in the Fourth Plan?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already answered this question before also. It is not our idea to entrust the manufacture of complete arms, ammunitions and equipment to the private sector; of course, parts and components we may be parcelling out to the private sector. It is in our interest also to see that the private sector is also utilised to the extent possible; but as a matter of policy, the complete assembly or manufacture of arms and ammunitions would not be in the private sector.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that as far conventional weapons are concerned, 80 per cent, or even cent per cent, are being manufactured indigenously; if no, what is the percentage for which we have still to depend on imported items.

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as weapons and ammunition are concerned...

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Conventional weapons.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, arms and ammunition. We import very little. For example, I said that of the overall general stores supplies of Rs. 368-and-odd crores, only 25 per cent represents the imported item. That indicates that as far as weapons and ammunitions are concerned we import very little.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो डिफेंस की चीजें प्राइवेट सेक्टर में बनती हैं, उनकी मीक्रेसी भाइट न हो, पूरी सुरक्षात्मक दृष्टि से प्राइवेट सेक्टर बनावे, किसी को पता न चले, क्या इस के लिए

सरकार ने कोई विधान सोच रखा है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Certainly, Sir.

श्री गुलशन : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सच है कि जो विदेशों से एम्पूनीशन मंगाया जाता है या कुछ असलाह, वह दुबानों पर सेल के लिए रखे जाते हैं और जो देशी चीजें हैं वे गुम की जाती हैं, जो सामान विलायत से मंगाया जाता है वह बेचा जाता है। आप को मालूम है कि चार सी रुपये सैबड़ा से कारतूस मिलते हैं और इससे भी अधिक पर मिलते हैं। जो देशी सामान है वह गुम किया जाता है, विलायती बेचा जाता है। क्या इसके बारे में सरकार कुछ सोचेगी ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That has not happened in the defence sector.

Mr. Speaker: Kachhavaia.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Sir, I have not asked my second question.

Mr. Speaker: He said that he would not ask it.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I was prevented from asking because the Minister did not answer part (c) of my question. How could I ask it when the answer was not forthcoming? Now when the answer is forthcoming, I am entitled to ask it.

Mr. Speaker: He should not interrupt me like this. Kachhavaia.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार के मामले यह सवाल है कि जो छोटे हथियार गैर सरकारी क्षेत्र में बनाये जायें या जिनको सरकार बनाने का विचार रखती है, वे सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों को दिये जायें ?

उप्युक्त महोदय : यह दूसरा सवाल है।
Dr. Singhvi might ask his second question.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I would like to know the extent of our dependence on imported spares or other collaboration in respect of the manufacture of defence aircraft and tanks in this country.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We depend to a considerable extent on the import of spares and parts of aircraft; of course, we are now trying to produce within the country as many parts as possible.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: We want a precise answer. "Considerable extent" is no answer. What is the precise extent?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not possible to give the precise extent.

Mr. Speaker: When it is not possible to give, that finishes the matter.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I can just say that as far as the aircraft things are concerned, the total import has come to round about Rs. 50 crores. There are several things. I can give the break-up but it is not advisable to give the break-up of aeroplane parts and other things. With regard to this matter, we are setting up...

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I am not asking for the specific break-down. I am only wanting to know the total dependence, not the break-up at all. He can give the figure or he may not give.

Mr. Speaker: The only thing that I can understand is that it is not advisable to give that answer. Next Question. Shri M. L. Dwivedi.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल जब आप उपस्थित नहीं थे तो इस सदन में एक क्वेश्चन 25 मिनट तक चला और हासत यह रही कि कल पूरे घंटे में दो या तीन सवाल ही हो पाये। अब अगर इस तरह से एक, एक सवाल 15, 15 मिनट तक चलना है तो अच्छा यह होगा कि लोग सवाल ही न दें क्योंकि वह धार्ये तो हैं नहीं। इस तरीके से कैसे काम चलेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कल की बात छोड़िये। अब माननीय सदस्य अपना सवाल करें।

देश में उर्वरक बनाने वाली मशीनों का निर्माण

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- * 624. श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
श्री प्र० चं० बरुआ :
श्री भागवत शा आजाद :
श्री सुबोध हंसवा :
श्री स० चं० सामन्त :
श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री क० ना० तिवारी :
श्री प्र० ना० विद्यालंकार :
श्री मधु लिमये :
श्री यशपाल सिंह :

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उर्वरक कारखानों के लिये प्रयोजित मशीनें देश में ही बनाने की कोई व्यवस्था की गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस समय उनके आयात पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा प्रति वर्ष खर्च की जाती है ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As import of fertilizer machinery is not separately classified in the Indian Trade Classification, precise annual figures are not available.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह फर्टिलाइजर्स की मशीनरी अभी इस देश में बनती है तो वह कहाँ कहाँ बनती है और उस में हमें सैल्फ सफिशिएंसी हासिल करने में कितने दिन लगेंगे ?

Shri Bibudhendra Misra: Regarding some items, many of the private parties have been licensed and there have been at least 5 to 6 public sector projects in collaboration with