

thorities, has come to know if it is a fact that China has protested to the USSR against their deal for the MIG aircraft and the manufacture and completion of the MIG in India.

Shri Krishna Menon: I am not aware of anything. But that does not come under this question.

Shri Raghunath Singh: It is published in the papers.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is unfortunate that several mistakes are committed severally and the annoyance is visited upon me! I never wanted to make any submission by way of a point of order. All that I wanted to know is this. You were good enough to state that the Minister has got the right of saying that in the public interest he would not disclose it. Is this bare statement of his merely a subjective approach or is there anything objective left in the hands of the Speaker on this point? This is what I want to know.

Mr. Speaker: It has been raised many a time. I remember an instance when it was done in the presence of my predecessor. He had asked the Minister to show him the record in order that he may decide whether that privilege he claimed was really *bona fide* or based on those facts or not. But certainly, presumably in most cases, I have to take the statement of the Minister as it comes and allow him the privilege, unless there are special circumstances brought to my notice by the hon. Members.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I submit with great respect that if we have some kind of categorical ruling, it will make us functionless? You have been a distinguished Judge and you know that this kind of privilege is raised in the courts, but the courts never abdicate their right. You have an absolute right in a matter like this. The Defence Ministry is constantly putting this House in a position where it cannot function. When they claim

privilege particularly in a matter like this, you have an absolute right to call for the records and see whether the claim is anything more than an *ipse dixit*. Otherwise, any *ipse dixit* can be raised by any Minister and the House cannot get any information.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been raised earlier and I have already given my answer. The Question Hour is over.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: 10 minutes have been taken by the points of order and the Question Hour may be extended by 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Who has taken those 10 minutes?

*SUPPLEMENTARIES ON SHORT NOTICE QUESTION No. 1

REGARDING CONTAMINATED FLOUR FROM U.S.A.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Mohan Swarup. He may put his supplementary on short notice question No. 1 answered yesterday.

Shri Mohan Swarup: In the statement, it has been said that the flour was received in four steamers at Calcutta Port, which brought about 70,000 bags, out of which only 4,000 bags were despatched to Darrang and Malda and the rest were despatched to Bihar and Orissa. May I know whether these consignments were brought at the Calcutta port at the same time and all the ships were unloaded at the same time?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I have stated in the reply that this flour which is alleged to have been contaminated has been received in four steamers. They brought in about 70,000 bags out of which 4,000 bags were despatched to Darrang and Malda districts. (*Interruptions*). Even with regard to those 4,000 bags, it is not established that

all these 4,000 bags have been contaminated because only a small number of bags have been consumed in that particular areas from where these instances have been reported. From areas where a substantial number of bags have been consumed, no incidents have been reported to us.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the four steamers out of which contaminated flour is reported to have been received had also discharged some bags of flour at Bombay and Madras ports, are the Regional Directors of Food at these ports not instructed whether the bags are in proper condition or not and whether they are contaminated?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They are being examined. All precautions are taken. It will be seen from the tests and examinations already conducted that the contamination would not have taken place either in voyage or at the ports.

Shri Hem Barua: The Government have said that the source of contamination has not yet been established. But now the Minister comes forward with a statement that it was not contaminated in transit. It is for the Government to enlighten us whether it was contaminated after it was delivered to the different centres in Assam or West Bengal.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is what I have said. I am sorry the hon. Member has not gone through the reply which I have, with your permission, placed on the Table of the House. I have stated towards the close of that answer:

"...further investigations in regard to the contamination of flour and the stage where such contamination occurred are still going on and the final result of such investigations will be placed before the House in due course".

श्री यशपाल सिंह: क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा इन्तज़ाम है कि आस्ट्रेलिया या

अमेरिका वगैरह जिस जगह से गल्ला सोडा किया जाता है, वहां ही यह देख लिया जाये कि किन्हीं ऐसे केमिकल्ज के साथ हमारा गल्ला न रखा जाये, जिससे वह पायज़न हो सके ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It has not been so. In this particular case it has varified that no chemical was carried in the particular ships in which these consignments of flour were received.

Mr. Speaker: What the hon. Member wants to know is whether there are any arrangements to see that the goods are checked at the source from where they are shipped as to whether they are in perfect order or they are contaminated (*Interruption*).

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are conditions even in the charter party that chemicals or poisonous substances cannot be carried along with food-grains.

Mr. Speaker: That was not the question. The question was not whether they may be carried along with foodgrains.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, Sir, at the place from where these are shipped and also at the place where they are received, checks are conducted.

श्री यशपाल सिंह: श्रीमान्, मेरे मवाल का जबाब नहीं दिया गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: उन्होंने दे दिया है। माननीय सदस्य ने मना नहीं है।

Shri P. C. Borooah: It is said that this flour has been contaminated by a chemical product known as TCP. May I know whether it is an imported thing or it is manufactured in India?

Shri A. M. Thomas: These investigations were carried on by the Health Department of the West Bengal Government, and according to the Tropical School of Medicine as well as the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health which have conducted these investigations, the samples were found to contain tricresyl phosphate.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is of foreign origin.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is stated in the answer that poisoning by this chemical TCP which is used by the plastics industry, causes nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea and ultimately results in paralysis of lower limbs. May I know how many people are still suffering due to this disease and whether their expenses will be met by the American Philanthropic Society or the Indian Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The investigations are still going on.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: People are still suffering.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement made by the head of the Catholic Mission, where the children have been affected, that this flour was contaminated at the port; if so, whether any contradiction will be issued since the Government do not think that it took place in transit?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No such statement has been made. (*Interruptions*).

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It has come in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members say that they have read it in the papers. As the statement has appeared, they want to know whether Government proposes to take any measure to contradict it because Government is of the opinion that this contamination did not take place at the port.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): It is a highly technical matter. Because there is any thing said by anybody, Government does not rush into contradictions. This is a matter which has got to be examined by the competent authority. What my hon. colleague

said was this, that in the same consignment there were hundreds and thousands of other bags that were distributed to other places. They have been consumed and there is no complaint. Therefore, it stands to reason, although it has to be established, that the contamination did not take place at the port. But this is a matter which is still under investigation and, I think, any further questions about it cannot elicit any other information than what has been given.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: The hon. Deputy Minister was pleased to answer that this TCP chemical has come from a foreign source. It that is so, why was it not possible for them to find out which was the port at which this TCP arrived, which was the source which distributed it and whether there was any connection between the distribution of foodgrains and this?

Shri S. K. Patil: This is also a highly technical matter. It may be that what was found was of the odour of TCP, but may not be exactly TCP, because we know on authority that TCP was not imported here. Therefore, it may be some other combination. I am not competent to give replies as to what other combinations can be of the type of TCP.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that when wheat and other foodstuffs come under PL 480 they are examined properly but in the case of foodstuffs sent from private organisations to private organisations examination does not take place in the port? Is that one of the reasons why it is not possible to ascertain whether...

Mr. Speaker: A whole speech is being made. It is a long question.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Some examination takes place in the case of foodstuffs which Government get, under PL 480. I want to know whether the same examination takes places in the case of foodstuffs sent

by voluntary organisations to other voluntary organisations.

Shri S. K. Patil: The routine examination does take place. What my colleague has stated and which I repeat is that if it was in the port then surely the quantity that has been distributed everywhere else except these two places and has been consumed—it has not only been distributed but on enquiries we found it has been consumed—would have invited the same complaint. But there has been no complaint at all from any other centre. So, it still requires to be proved that the contamination has taken place in the port.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: The hon. Minister has stated that the contamination has not taken place either in the voyage or in the port. What inference does he draw from that? Where was it contaminated?

Shri S. K. Patil: I draw no inferences. I leave it to the technicians to find out.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Now papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Low Cost Car in H.A.L.

***103. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 86 on the 23rd April, 1962 and state:

(a) whether any foreign technical aid has been received for the manufacture of low cost car in Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the design of the car has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a). No, Sir.

(b). Do not arise.

(c). Yes, Sir. Hindustan Aircraft Limited have produced a prototype and part of developmental project.

(d) It is a light weight car. The boy is a four door sedan type, made of cold setting polyester reinforced with glass fibre, with seating accommodation for 5 adults and luggage space for 250 lbs.

The car is powered by a two stroke, three cylinder water cooled engine designed and developed at Hindustan Aircraft.

Admission to Delhi University

{ **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
***104. { Maharajkumar Vijaya**
Ananda:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shri Mate:
Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students registered with Delhi University for admission in various colleges;

(b) how many of them have been refused admission; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to provide educational facilities to those who have been refused admission?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a). 10,486.

(b). 2,939.

(c) Apart from the existing facility available to women students to enrol themselves with the University as non-collegiate candidates, the Delhi University Act has been amended to enable the University to start Correspondence Courses from the current academic year.