

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 4, 1963/Phalguna 18,
1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tusker Project

+

Shri D. N. Tiwary:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Harish Chandra
Mathur:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Basappa:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Berwa Kotah:

*223.

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 919 on the 21st January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether inquiry into the allegations against the Tusker Organisation has since been completed; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether this organisation, Tusker, has done considerable harm to the NEFA area by not doing the works in a proper way and, if so, what steps have

2841 (A) LSD—1.

been taken so far?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think this really speaking is a question which presumably concerns with the enquiry the result of which I cannot afford to anticipate.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether anybody so far has been held responsible and punished?

Mr. Speaker: When the enquiry is being made, how could that arise now?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether it is a fact that, apart from this enquiry which is being conducted by the committee, there are certain things which have been *prima facie* proved, and the Government is taking departmental action against certain persons?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Yes, Sir. In certain cases of corruption the investigations are proceeding. I can inform the House that four cases have been registered.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जांच किस अधिकारी या किन अधिकारियों द्वारा की जा रही है, और क्या उन्होंने बतलाया है कि वे कब तक अपनी रिपोर्ट दे सकेंगे ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : जैसा मैं ने कहा, कई केसेज स्पेशल पुलिस के हाथों में हैं और कई टेकनिकल तरह के जो काम हैं वे टेकनिकल अफसरों के हाथों में हैं ।

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know who are the persons involved against whom this enquiry is being held and what are the *prima facie* charges?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I can give the hon. House the information which, really speaking, was given in answer to a question the other day.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; the answer was given in reply to a question on the last occasion. Perhaps he could give the reference.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I am prepared to repeat it if the House wants it.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: No names were given against whom this enquiry is being held.

Mr. Speaker: The charges had been given then.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Who are the persons involved against whom this enquiry is being held. That was part (a) of the question; and then, what is the charge?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It is rather unfair to give the names now, when the investigations are going on. But supposing ultimately, the charges, etc., are proved, it will certainly be brought before Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: They might be proved or not, but there must have been certain persons against whom there are allegations—who are alleged to have committed those irregularities.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: In any case those names are not with me unfortunately, now.

Shri Tyagi: Last time, the hon. Minister narrated before the House the items on which the enquiry was being made; one of them was corruption, etc. I wonder if any officer has so far been suspended; I want to know if the enquiry is going on while the officers are still in their positions, and whether the accounts of the alleged contractor, from whom things were had at exorbitant rates, have been searched and taken possession of by the enquiry committee.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The information that I have got with me is regular

cases have been registered against four officers under section 120 IPC. Those names unfortunately are not with me.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether anyone has been suspended and whether the accounts of the contractor have been taken possession of.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The only thing I can say is that the officers against whom these allegations were made have been transferred from that area.

Shri Tyagi: That means, not suspended.

Shri Ranga: The question put by Shri Tyagi was, whether they have been suspended. The answer is that they have already been transferred from one place to another.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, they have not been suspended. That is the answer.

Shri Tyagi: That is unconventional.

Mr. Speaker: We are entering into argument. He wanted to have the information and that has been given. Shri Banerjee.

Shri Ranga: Excuse me, Sir. The usual thing is, when the hon. Minister has not got that information he generally offers to supply that information to the hon. Member concerned. Would he be good enough to give that information to the hon. Member?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly I will give the information to the hon. Member if he wants.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: On a point of order. The hon. Defence Minister, in reply to an earlier supplementary question, stated that he had given out the names in the other House and you, Sir, also said that he had given the answer in reply to another question. Now he says he has not got the names. May I request you to ask him to enlighten the House?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member did not follow the answer quite distinctly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister has stated that the officers against whom allegations had been made have been transferred. I want to know the circumstances under which those officers could not be suspended. Is it a fact that they are prejudicing the enquiry because of non-suspension?

Mr. Speaker: Is the enquiry being prejudiced on account of non-suspension?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No, Sir; it is not.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: The enquiry committee was formed on the 21st January, one and a half months ago. May I know how much time it will take more to get their report and whether the members of the enquiry committee will go to NEFA, if necessary?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The people who are making the investigation are all in that area itself. Of course, it is very difficult for me to indicate the time. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to know which of the Ministers is responsible for Tusker. Is it the President of that committee, namely, the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Defence Minister?

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order in this.

Manufacture of Automatic Weapons

- +
- Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 - Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
 - Shri Rameshwaranand:
 - Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 - Shri G. Mohanty:
 - Shri Mallick:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether automatic weapons are being manufactured in ordnance factories;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to reach a state of self-sufficiency?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) to (c). The manufacture of the automatic rifles has been established in the Ordnance Factories. Steps are being taken to reach a rate of production which will give the Services their requirements.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether these automatic weapons are being manufactured with the help of some foreign experts and if so, which are those countries?

Shri Raghuramaiah: They are being manufactured in our ordnance factories by our own officers and workers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether there is any truth in the fact that some kinds of arms and ammunition are likely to be manufactured by the private sector and if so, whether this is in conformity with our policy in regard to defence?

Shri Raghuramaiah: In view of the emergency, the Ministry of Defence and Economic Coordination are seized of this matter.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know what are the reasons for not arranging for the manufacture of such automatic weapons earlier? Was it due to ignorance of modern warfare or was it due to our poor intelligence of Chinese war preparations or was it due to some strange quirk in our military policy and programme?

Shri Raghuramaiah: It is a question of assessment of our requirements at that time by those in authority.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This is hardly any answer to my question, Sir. You will kindly come to my rescue. I asked three alternatives in our military question.

Mr. Speaker: I also felt some difficulty in following him.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In following the answer?