

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

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- 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?

Mr. Speaker: In following the question. If he puts a straight question, then certainly the answer would be straight.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I wanted to know, what are the reasons for not ordering the manufacture of automatic weapons earlier? Was it due to either...

Mr. Speaker: Why should he give the answer also?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The answer is evasive.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Minister give the answer.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Ordnance factories produce according to the requirements of armed forces and the schedule of production then was based on the then requirements.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What were the then requirements? Can we have a clear idea?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want that the hon. Minister should say that it was due to our ignorance? He can draw his own conclusions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a blunder. Even Mahatma Gandhi confessed his Himalayan blunders. Why should not the Government confess its blunder?

Shri Daji: May I know whether our ordnance factories are self-contained in the matter of production of these automatic weapons or is it a fact that some parts have been formed out to certain private engineering firms for preparation and we only assemble them?

Shri Raghuramaiah: Efforts are being made in this as well as in other items of production to form out whatever can be done with precision by the civil sector.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know what overall percentage of self-sufficiency has been attained in the defence equipment?

Shri Raghuramaiah: It is an enormous subject, and it will depend upon the item in question.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: May I know whether the quality of the items manufactured by us match with the quality of the articles imported from outside?

Shri Raghuramaiah: Definitely, yes.

Military Awards

*225. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether highest military awards like Param Vir Chakra are accompanied by any financial benefits and if so, the nature and extent of such grants; and

(b) if not, whether Government have examined any such proposal and to what effect?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Shri D. E. Chavan): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Recipients of Param Vir Chakra (other than Commissioned Officers) receive a monetary allowance of Rs. 50 p.m. from the Central Government. In addition, all recipients of Param Vir Chakra (including Commissioned Officers) receive a lumpsum cash grant or land from the Governments of the States to which they belong. The rates of cash and land grants vary from State to State.

Normally, recipients of Ashoka Chakra Class I are not entitled to monetary allowance. But recipients of awards of Ashoka Chakra Class I (other than Commissioned Officers) for acts of gallantry in Naga Hill operations and in Goa operations, performed under battle conditions, are granted monetary allowances at the same rates as are given for awards of the Param Vir Chakra.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: According to the statement, Sir, it is