

Shri Joachim Alva: I am sorry. You have allowed the Members from the Opposition to put so many questions, but you are not allowing me to put even one question.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

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- *229. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
Shri B. N. Mandal:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Bagri:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to modernize our armed forces;

(b) if so, whether a blueprint has been prepared for the same;

(c) whether any concrete measures have been implemented so far in that direction; and

(d) if so, the details or a brief outline thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We do not want the details. But has there been any consultation in this matter with the foreign military missions from friendly countries which have visited our country so far, and has there been in the preparation of the blue-print—any co-operation with those teams, and are any technicians and experts from the foreign friendly countries being invited to our country for training our own personnel in these matters?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I would say generally, yes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could not hear the answer.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Generally, my answer would be 'Yes'.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I suppose 'generally' means in regard to all the three things. May I know whether any target date has been set for the modernisation of our Armed Forces so as to meet the possible threat of a Chinese invasion in the near future?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: May I say that it is rather difficult to indicate any target date as such, because modernisation is a very complex process and a continuous process?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there a phased programme?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly. Naturally, when we say that there is a programme for it, it has to be a phased programme, and it is a phased programme.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि तीनों प्रकार की स्थल, जल तथा नभ सेनाओं, तीनों का आधुनिकीकरण किया जा रहा है, यदि हाँ, तो इस आधुनिकीकरण का क्या संख्या पर भी कोई प्रभाव पड़ेगा ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : आधुनिकीकरण में जहाँ और बातें की जाती हैं वहाँ संख्या भी बढ़ायी जाती है। दोनों ही होती हैं।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह आधुनिकीकरण तीनों सेनाओं का होगा और इस आधुनिकीकरण का स्थल सेना की संख्या पर भी क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यही तो उन्होंने कहा है कि पड़ेगा। आधुनिकीकरण का संख्या पर भी असर पड़ेगा।

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Could the hon. Minister give an assurance that we shall not be dependent on foreign advisers and consultants and that we have already taken steps to train our own personnel?

Mr. Speaker: Assurances are not asked for during the Question Hour. Only information can be asked for.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जैसा कि ग्रानरेबल मिनिस्टर ने बतलाया है कि पबलिक इंटरैस्ट में नहीं है, तो क्या कोई भी मिलैटरी प्रीपेरेशन छिपाना पबलिक इंटरैस्ट को सर्व कर सकता है ?

Mr. Speaker: It is theoretical.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: May I know whether the modernisation will be in the communist way or the Western way? (*Laughter*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It should not be taken so lightly.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has said that it is not in the public interest to give the details. I would not like to seek any information with regard to the details. But I would like to have this information whether some practical steps have already been taken and whether the Minister will take the responsibility? In future, if there is any lack of ammunition or arms, then, will the Minister be responsible personally for it? We do not want the details.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a new responsibility.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: In the sense and to the extent which any Defence Minister can be responsible, yes.

Report of Mahalanobis Committee

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- *230. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri Ramshekhar Prasad Singh:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahalanobis Committee on the distribution of national income has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, the main findings of the Committee?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the importance attached to the findings of this report, will Government persuade the learned committee to come out with the result of their findings as soon as possible?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): Yes, we have been in touch with the chairman and the other members of the committee, and we have requested them to expedite the report.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the expectations raised in the minds of the people by the Planning Commission, can we at least expect that before the third year of the Third Plan elapses, we can have in our possession the findings of the Committee?

Shri Nanda: The Chairman has told me that he would be in a position to place the report in the hands of the Planning Commission before the end of this session of Parliament?

Shri P. R. Patel: A year ago the *Indian Express* wrote an editorial giving the findings of the Mahalanobis Committee. That being so, how is the Government not in possession of the findings of the Committee?

Shri Nanda: There are no findings of the Committee as yet.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Is it a fact that an interim report has been submitted to the Government by the Committee?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: What are the reasons for the extraordinary delay which is unexpected?

Shri Nanda: It is an extraordinary difficult and complex subject.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a fact that this Committee wanted some more powers in the shape of terms of reference from Government, as for example, to go into the books and accounts to assess the real situation?