

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should he ask for my permission, now? When he had not obeyed what I had said earlier he need not ask for further permission. If he asks for it then I would say that I request him to say nothing further, and he should resume his seat.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit for your consideration . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** I am submitting for the hon. Member's consideration that he may kindly resume his seat.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I agree to sit down, but the hon. Minister has not replied to the important point of my question.

**श्री राम सेवक यादव :** मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जो समिति नियुक्त की जाने वाली है क्या उसमें विदेशी विशेषज्ञों को भी शामिल किया जा रहा है। यदि हाँ, तो किन किन देशों से और किन किन कारणों से।

**श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी :** अभी इस विषय में मैं कुछ नहीं कह सकती।

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, next question.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Before you go to the next question, I want to raise a point of order, which is this. When a Minister does not reply to a specific question put by a Member, and you also, I am very sorry to say, put down your foot on the question of the Member concerned, what is the remedy against that in Parliament? The hon. Minister says that she agrees with the observation of that committee. Basing on that, I put my question whether she would be prepared to take any interim measures to remedy these evils. She has not replied to that. And yet, when I point it out, I am precluded from doing so.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think I need answer any point of order at this

moment, because he has said what he wanted to say.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No. 153. Question 152 has been transferred.

**An hon. Member:** Question 155 may also be taken up with it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

#### Manufacture of Light Tanks

+

\*153. { **Shri Kameshwar Tanti:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Borwa:**  
**Shri B. P. Yadava:**  
**Shri Dhaon:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**  
**Shri Hukam Chand**  
**Kachhavaia:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union has agreed to give aid for manufacture of light tanks in India;

(b) if so, what kind of aid has been promised;

(c) when the work for manufacturing these tanks will start, and

(d) the expected annual production of the tanks?

**The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) No, Sir. We have not sought any assistance from the Soviet Union for the manufacture of light tanks in India.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Vicker's Medium Tank

+

\*155. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**  
**Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a prototype of the Vicker's medium tank, which is to be manufactured at Avadi, arrived in India, some time back and has undergone numerous tests in Northern India and elsewhere; and

(b) if so, whether the trials have been successful and when the work of manufacturing this tank will start?

**The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The trials have been mostly successful; certain remaining trials are expected to be completed soon. The tank factory has commenced production in tool room, machine shop and plate fabrication shop.

**Shri Ramoshwar Tanti:** May I know whether we are self-sufficient in tank manufacture?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have not yet reached the stage of production of tanks.

श्री रामश्वर तन्तिया : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके उत्पादन की कितनी क्षमता होगी और उस पर हमारी लागत कितनी घायगी ।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I do not think it would be desirable to disclose the capacity in the public interest.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if the Government has a comprehensive policy of manufacturing tanks like medium and heavy tanks, and if so, what is the blueprint which Government has in mind and whether it is getting any collaboration from other countries of the world also?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have got a comprehensive scheme for manufacture of medium tanks and also light tanks. We have no idea of manufacturing heavy tanks now.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Since the cardinal principle of military science in the choice of a weapon by any country depends on the quality and standard of the armaments possessed by its potential enemies, may I know if this principle was considered by the Government before they decided to manufacture these medium tanks on such a large scale?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Yes, we have taken that aspect into consideration.

That is why we are going in for light tanks also.

श्री बकपालसिंह : क्या सरकार यह बतला सकती है कि रजिजन टाइप के जो टैंक हैं जिनकी इतनी क्वालिटी है, उनसे हमारे टैंक कहाँ तक कम्येयर करते हैं ।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to Russian tanks, the hon. House is aware that my senior colleague, the Defence Minister had been to Russia. He has conducted certain negotiations and come to certain arrangements also. It is his idea to take the House into confidence at a later stage with regard to the trips that he has had both to the U.S.A. and the USSR.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** May I put my second question?

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Since the number is not being given, may I know what percentage of our requirements at present is being met by the present capacity of production?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** As I have already said, the medium tank factory at Avadi has not yet gone into production. It may sometime next year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Ordinarily no second question is allowed to a Member who is the sponsor of a question that was linked with another. But he may put a question now.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Vicker's medium tank be a hundred per cent Indian product or would we still remain dependent on Britain for some of its components?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Some components will certainly be imported, but it is our idea to increase the indigenous content to the extent possible. Even in the preliminary stage of assembly of some tanks, we may be able to have indigenous content.

**Shri M. E. Krishna:** Is it not a fact that the Defence Ministry was negotiating with a Japanese firm to manufacture light tanks? If so, is the Ministry still following the same old practice of manufacturing one equipment through too many agencies?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We are not having any negotiations with Japan for the manufacture of tanks.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether it is a fact that the medium and small tanks both are to be manufactured in the ordnance factory at Avadi, and whether the first tank will be on the roads in the month of January, 1965?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Our schedule was that by the end of 1965 the first tank would roll out, and I think the schedule would be kept.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धाती : क्या यह हल्के टैंक पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में कार्य कर सकेंगे?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The procurement as well as the manufacture of light tanks is with a view to utilise them in the mountain regions.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रूस के साथ मिलकर यह जो हल्के टैंकों के निर्माण का योजना हमने स्वीकारा तो है यह कोई रास्ते तक निर्णय है अथवा सम्मेलन की दृष्टि से ऐसा किया गया है ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** As I have indicated in the answer itself, it is not our idea to resort to manufacture of light tanks with the assistance of the Soviet Union. We have not approached the Soviet Union in that matter. We have, as I have indicated, entered into certain negotiations for the purchase of certain light tanks from Russia. As I have said, the Defence Minister would be making a statement on this at a later stage.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know whether there is any time schedule fixed for making these components completely Indian?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In fact, our idea is to have as much of indigenous manufacture as possible, and even from the very start we are trying in that direction, and we are making the necessary effort and producing certain components also.

**Shri Brij Raj Singh-Kotah:** Are the guns and sights of these tanks also going to be manufactured, or are they going to be imported?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Guns and other things are also going to be manufactured, but that would be in collaboration with some other concern. For example, the gun is going to be manufactured in collaboration with the British War Office.

**Shri Tulsidas Jadhav:** How many tanks are there now, and how many are required now?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is not advisable to mention the number of tanks.

#### I.A.F. Plane Crash

+

- \*154. {  
 Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri Bishanchander Seth:  
 Shri Dhaom:  
 Shri B. P. Yadava:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
 Shri N. R. Lasker:  
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of Inquiry appointed to inquire into the crash of the I.A.F. Ilyushin-14 Aircraft on the 17th February, 1964 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, its findings and conclusions and

(c) whether the report will be laid on the Table?

**The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. {Placed in Library. See No. LT-3106/64}.

(c) It is not in public interest to lay the report on the Table.