

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 10, 1965/Agrahayana 19, 1887 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of Rifles for Civilian Target Shooting Practices

\*773. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to permit the manufacture of rifles, guns and cartridges for civilian target shooting practices in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) and (b). A study is being undertaken to assess the demand of rifles, guns and cartridges in the next five years. If the study of the demand reveals that there is a requirement which is large enough to support the setting up of one or more economic units, it is proposed to explore ways and means of assisting units in this regard.

Shri Karni Singhji: May I know why Government have persistently turned down the request of the National Rifle Association of India and other bodies for the manufacture of target-shooting arms and ammunition within this country, more so when we know that there is a great shortage for the same?

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Shri T. N. Singh: The hon. Member is aware of the whole thing more than I would ever be aware of, because it was through him that the proposal was first initiated. But the point is that the Defence Ministry feels that it is a highly precision job and it may not be possible for any of the private-sector organisations to undertake this kind of work. They have felt that by and large with the demand that was there they would be able to meet the requirements, but during the last one or two or three years, the position did certainly change, and, therefore, the whole question is under consideration.

Shri Karni Singhji: Are Government aware that due to the defence commitments, if the present system of producing guns and rifles for civilian use remains the monopoly of the ordnance factories, it would be years before the target-shooting movement would ever be able to gain momentum?

Shri T. N. Singh: That is what I have said that in view of the present preoccupation of the Defence Ministry with other important production programmes for their own Forces, it is felt necessary to consider the whole question in great detail and that is being done. It will be recalled that the manufacture of arms and ammunition is in Schedule A of the Industrial Policy Resolution. That is also another question which has to be discussed.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Parliamentary Rifle Association prepared to undertake it?

Shri Karni Singhji: No.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: In view of the fact that there is a great demand for getting this rifle training in the country, may I know why the

Ministry is not taking immediate steps at least to give permission or to make arrangements for the production of air guns which have proved to be very successful in giving training to the people?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** We have licensed a unit for manufacture of air rifles in Gujarat. Another which was licensed or which was proposed to be licensed in Punjab has somehow fallen through.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know whether Government have received any proposal from the Punjab Government that they want to make these guns.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister says that that has fallen through.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** क्या सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि मूंगेरों में एक लम्बे भस्से से बन्दूकें, रायफल आदि बनाने का काम किया जाता रहा है। इस बात वहां के जो कर्मचारी हैं वे बड़ी मुश्किल में हैं। क्या उनको सहायता दे कर फौजी तथा गैर फौजी इस्तमाल के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर हथियार बनाने का प्रयत्न किया जाएगा ?

**श्री त्रि० ना० सिंह :** इस तरह के कार्ट्रिज कुछ लोग बना लेते हैं, लेकिन जो माहिर लोग हैं उनका कहना है कि यह चीज इतनी रिलायबिल नहीं हो सकती और इससे ज्यादा डिफेंस का काम नहीं चल सकता।

**Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** May I know whether rifles will be supplied to the ladies also when they are imparted rifle-training?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** How can there be any objection to that?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should the ladies not start a factory by themselves?

**श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती :** सन् 1947 के गृहयुद्ध के समय हरियाना के लोहारों ने बन्दूकें, पिस्तौलें यहाँ तक कि तोपें तक बना ली थीं। क्या जनता की भाव-व्यक्तता को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार इन

लोहारों को राइफल आदि बनाने का लाइसेंस दे देगी ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** इस का जवाब उन्होंने दे दिया।

**श्री काशी राम गुप्त :** पाकिस्तान युद्ध के बाद वह अवश्यपक हो गया है कि बहुत बड़ी तादाद में लोगों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाये। सरकारी कारखानों में जो बन्दूकें बनती हैं वे सरकार के काम के लिए ही काफी नहीं होतीं। क्या इस स्थिति के आधार पर एक वर्ष के अन्दर कुछ ऐसी फर्मा को लाइसेंस देने का सरकार विचार रखती है जो जरूरत के मुताबिक बन्दूकें बना कर लोगों को दे सकें ?

**श्री त्रि० ना० सिंह :** प्रशिक्षण की जरूरत और उसके लिए इन्तिजाम के बारे में दो रायें नहीं हो सकती और इसका इन्तिजाम डिफेंस और होम मिनिस्ट्री कर रही है। लेकिन जहाँ तक हथियारों के मैन्युफैक्चर का सवाल है अब तक की नीति यह रही है कि इमका उत्पादन प्राइवेट सेक्टर में न हो और ज्यादातर पब्लिक सेक्टर में ही रहे। जो इंडस्ट्रियल पालिसी रिजोल्यूशन मंजूर किया गया है उसमें भी यही विचार है। फिर भी आज कल की स्थिति में इस के ऊपर विचार किया जा रहा है।

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** What is the assessment about the quality of certain arms being manufactured still by private manufacturers in some parts of the country?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I do not know; there may be surreptitious manufacture. There is nothing legal about it.

**Shri Shankre:** Since the question relates to the manufacture of guns and cartridges for civilian use, why should Government or the Defence Ministry worry so much about their quality or precision? Or am I to understand that the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence also should apply in this matter . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Yashpal Singh.

**Shri Shankre:** What is the reply?

**Mr. Speaker:** Gandhian philosophy has nothing to do with this.

**Shri Shinkre:** Then the first part may be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no.

**श्री घणपाल सिंह :** क्या मिनिस्टर साहब के ध्यान में यह बात आयी है जो दस बीच में आपने बन्दूकें मैन्युफैक्चर की हैं बीस या बाईस दफा चलाने के बाद उनकी नाल गरम हो जाती है और वे बेकार हो जाती हैं, और यह भी जाहिर है कि आपकी आइंनेन्स फैक्टरीज आज की डिमांड को मीट नहीं कर सकती। तो आपको इसमें क्या एतराज है कि और नये कारखाने खुलें, चाहे वे प्राइवेट सेक्टर में हों, जो कि आज देश की डिमांड की मीट कर सकें ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** यही तो उन्होंने कहा है।

बंगटोक के निकट पाया गया सोना

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\* 774. श्री स० ना० चतुर्वेदी :

श्री स० सा० द्विवेदी :

श्री लुकोव हुंसवा :

श्री पारासर :

श्री स० च० सामन्त :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 29 अगस्त, 1965 के "हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में "मोल्ड डिसकवर्ड नीयर गंगटोक" नामक शीर्षक वाले समाचार की ओर आकर्षित किया गया है जिसमें कहा गया है कि डिगबू नामक स्थान पर सोना पाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने स्थान का निरीक्षण करने और तथ्यों का पता लगाने के लिए विशेषज्ञों को भेजा है ;

(ग) क्या विशेषज्ञों के विचार में यह सोना व्यापारिक दृष्टि से अच्छी किस्म का है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितना सोना मिलने की संभावना है ?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Thimmaiah):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The investigations carried out by the Indian Bureau of Mines have revealed the existence of traces of gold associated with copper mineralisation. The gold content varies from traces to 0.3 grammes per ton of ore and as such is not economical to exploit on a commercial scale.

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** May I know whether the investigations have been completed and Government has decided not to go in for the exploitation of these mines?

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** India has a place less than the tenth rank among the gold-producing countries of the world while the Soviet Union within 30 years has jumped to the second place. We are content only with 3 gold mines. Is there a dynamic programme before Government to exploit more of these and other minerals in the country?

**The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** This is about a particular place which we have investigated. The whole of India has not been surveyed. If and when we find gold in better quantity, naturally we will exploit it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Alva suggests some sites. They may be exploited.

**Shri Sanjiva Reddy:** Most certainly.