

AN 12 Planes and Helicopters from USSR

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*1086. { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase some more AN 12 heavy transport planes and helicopters from the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) how many?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) to (c). This matter is under consideration.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know since how long this matter is under consideration and by what time we can expect that the deal will be finalised?

Shri Krishna Menon: It will be under consideration until Government is able to come to a decision.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether a comparative assessment has been made regarding the plane and helicopter that we want to purchase from other countries and after that the decision will be arrived at?

Shri Krishna Menon: Not only have comparative assessments been made but Government have taken into account all the pressures that come.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In this matter—I do not wish to go into details—but in this matter have global tenders been invited or are they being invited, or is a global search being instituted to ascertain from what country this aircraft could be supplied to India on the most advantage-out terms, or is some third basis being adopted?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is not possible to invite global tenders in regard to defence equipment. When there are government-to-government purchases, global tenders are not necessary.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order, Sir, my question has not been answered. What other basis is being adopted?

Mr. Speaker: I will come to him again. There is no point of order.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if any protest from any other country has been received regarding this?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not see how any other country can protest about our purchase.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Have they protested?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kamath.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Minister has been good enough to answer the first part of my question. He has apparently overlooked the last part. What basis is being adopted for the purchase of these?

Shri Krishna Menon: Purchase of aircraft depended upon our requirements, upon the capacity of the aircrafts, its performance, availability of foreign exchange and the advice that is received from our experts, condition of our air-fields and things of that character.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Galbraith, has protested against the Government's proposal to buy jets from the Soviet Union and if so whether he has any right to do so.

Mr. Speaker: That he has answered

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether a protest has been lodged

against this to the U.S. Government. Is he within his rights?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not know what the question is.

Mr. Speaker: Whether the U.S. Ambassador here lodged a protest and whether he is within his rights to behave in that manner?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have not received any protest.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It has appeared in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever appears in the newspapers is not always correct.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the Ministry has under contemplation a project to manufacture its own helicopters? May I know what has happened to that?

Shri Krishna Menon: Helicopters are under manufacture. They take some time.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Anti-Indian Activities Inside Indo-Tibetan Border areas

*1090. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government of India has been drawn to a recent statement of the Chief Minister, U.P., to the effect that fifth column anti-Indian activities have of late been on the increase inside Indo-Tibetan border areas; and

(b) if so, what effective steps are proposed to be taken to stop such activities?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a). No such statement has been made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh recently.

(b). Does not arise.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the Government of India is

aware that such activities are going on in the border areas?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): If it is about U.P., it has definitely gone down and it is now much reduced.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the Government are aware that such foreign nationals are penetrating into the border areas as news hawkers and petty traders in order to alienate the border inhabitants against India? Is it a fact?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The reports we have received from the U.P. Government clearly indicates that they are very vigilant and watchful. They are quite satisfied with the present situation as it exists there.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, ज्ञाना फौजदारी कानून का संशोधन हुए कुछ समय हो गया है, ताँ मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस के अन्तर्गत इन सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में कोई कार्यवाही काँ गई है या किमी के खिलाफ कोई मुकद्दमा अब तक चलाया गया है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : जी नहीं ।

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if any political party in this country is associated with this anti-Indian activity inside our border?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The hon. Member perhaps knows the answer himself.

Shri P. K. Deo: We do not know. We want to know if any political party is associated with any such activity.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Gold in Salem

*1091. **Shri Rajaram:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any geological survey has been undertaken in south of