

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) 83,103 persons have been given training in the Lok Sahayak Sena during the period 1st April, 1956 to the 28th February, 1957.

(b) Yes. In the syllabus of the border camps greater emphasis is given to field engineering subjects.

Anti-Aircraft Measures and Coastal Defence

35. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken recently to strengthen anti-aircraft measures and coastal defence;

(b) whether this work has been entrusted to the Territorial Army; and

(c) how many training centres for anti-aircraft are functioning at present?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) It is not in the public interest to give this information.

(b) A part of this responsibility rests with the Territorial Army.

(c) There is no special centre for imparting training in anti-aircraft defence. Regular army personnel are trained at the Artillery Centre and School and T.A. personnel are trained at the headquarters of each unit or in special camps.

Defence Production

36. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what steps did Government take to increase the defence production during 1956-57; and

(b) whether defence material is still being imported from foreign countries?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) The following general steps were taken:—

(i) indigenous manufacture of a number of new types of equipment was established;

(ii) development of new designs of arms and ammunition was undertaken and existing designs modified to enable use of indigenous materials; and

(iii) two major projects for defence production were progressed to the stage of finalisation.

In addition, the Defence Production Board which was set up towards the end of 1955, started functioning. Its activities were directed towards the solution of procedural and other difficulties which retard production. Bharat Electronics Ltd. went into part production and the scope of production in Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. was expanded.

(b) Yes.

Survey Vessel

37. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Hindustan Shipyard Limited have completed the construction of a survey vessel?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Mahavir Tyagi): No, Sir.

Steel Plants

38. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state the value of plant and machinery imported so far in respect of each of the three steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur?

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The value of land and machinery imported upto the end of February, 1957:

Rourkela Project — Rs. 37 lakhs.

Bhilai Project — Rs. 389 lakhs.

Durgapur Project — Rs. 45 lakhs.