

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 10, 1959 | Phalguna 19,
1880 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase of Ammunition

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*1047. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Kistalya:
Shri Kodiyar:
Shri Parulekar:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 84 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the relevant reports of the enquiries instituted into the purchase of ammunition from a European Firm in 1952 have been examined;

(b) if so, the finding thereof;

(c) the quantity of ammunition that was found unserviceable; and

(d) the total cost thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (d). The relevant reports have been examined by the Government; but, as certain additional enquiries have been found necessary, a Committee has been appointed to go further into this matter. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by the end of April, 1959 and on receipt of this report, Government will be in a better

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position to formulate their views on the various issues connected with this matter.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Some time back the reply was given by Government that it was necessary to examine this matter more than once, and now again we are told that a special committee has been appointed to go into the case of this ammunition purchase. May we have an idea why so many enquiries are being necessitated to arrive at the correct conclusion by Government?

Sardar Majithia: The main reason has been that there was a difference of opinion between the first report and the second report. So, the matter was discussed in the Ministry, as a result of which it was found necessary to go further into this matter and go into more details. So, we have appointed another committee and asked them to submit their report by the end of April, 1959. I should also like to mention that this committee is going to be headed by the Deputy Law Minister.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know the amount of money involved in this ammunition purchase and whether that ammunition has ever been used either for practice or for any other purpose? What is the actual defect in the ammunition that has been purchased?

Sardar Majithia: Roughly it is about 1 lakh rounds, costing round about Rs 10 lakhs.

Mr. Speaker: Has it been used?

Sardar Majithia: It has not been used so far because of certain difference of opinion between the two committees. Unless we are absolutely sure and satisfied in our mind that they are

absolutely all right to be used, we will not use it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this ammunition was purchased from a Swiss firm and whether the Swiss experts of the same firm are working at the ordnance factory at Ambernath and if so, whether their services are going to be terminated?

Sardar Majithia: This purchase was from Oerlikons, which is a Swiss firm. But so far as this enquiry and the defects are concerned, they are absolutely not connected with this. As I said, this matter was gone into by our Ministry and now it is going to be gone into further by this new committee headed by the Deputy Law Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I wanted to know whether the experts belonging to the same firm are still working in the ordnance factory at Ambernath and whether their contracts are likely to be terminated?

Sardar Majithia: Those experts and the people working in this factory are entirely different.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know why this further probe into this question has not been committed to the same committee and why there had to be a change in the personnel of the committee?

Mr. Speaker: If it had been entrusted to the same committee, hon Members will say it is useless to refer it to the same committee.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know why it was not referred to the same committee, when the terms of reference are the same.

Mr. Speaker: Much can be said on both sides. These are matters of administrative detail. If it is referred to the same committee, they will say it is useless and there will be trouble; if it is referred to another committee, that is also questioned. Next question

Detective Institutes

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*1048. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hanada:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the following Institutions are located:

- (i) Central Detective Training School,
- (ii) Central Finger Print Bureau, and
- (iii) Central Forensic Science Laboratory.

(b) the cost involved for setting them up;

(c) whether any regional centres of these Institutions are proposed to be set up, and

(d) whether all the necessary equipments for these Institutions have been procured by now?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) Calcutta

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 72].

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Except for certain instruments required for the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, which have to be imported from abroad, almost all the present requirements of equipment have been met.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in the Central Police Training College at Mount Abu this training is given and if so, whether there is sufficient equipment there?

Shri G. B. Pant: No; such specialised training is not imparted there.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement it is found that the total amount is Rs. 2,08,484 for 1956-57, Rs. 4,63,440 for 1957-58 and the revised estimates