

**Mr. Speaker:** He has said it is not possible to do that.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** I have explained the position. [Perhaps it will help the House if I say that payments due to this firm have not been made. They have been withheld. When payments were due on certain items, we have said that it is subject to revision afterwards.]

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that this ammunition deal involves a loss of about Rs. 92 lakhs and it has been hanging fire for about 8 years, what steps have been taken by Government to see that departmental action is taken in the interim period against those officers involved in this deal?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** The Ministry cannot take action unless we know who are in the right and who are in the wrong.

**Mr. Speaker:** Possibly if the hon. Member becomes the Minister, he might be able to do so. But this Ministry cannot do it.

[**Shri A. K. Sen:** May I only say this, that this will have to be a judicial proceeding, because all the persons charged—I met the Deputy Minister and asked him why it was taking so much time—have cited witnesses, and they are cross-examining them? So it has to be done very judicially so that no blame may attach later wrongly on any officer. I can tell you that he has been doing this, laying aside all other work, continuously, notwithstanding his bad health.]

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** We have no mind to blame the Deputy Minister, but we feel that this matter has been coming up for the last ten years....

**An Hon. Member:** 8 years.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:** This occurred in 1952. In the meantime, some officers who are guilty might retire and Government may not get a chance to punish them. What will happen then?

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members are only anxious that it should be expedited.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** Nobody could be more anxious than the Government in this matter.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Why do they not hold a departmental inquiry into the conduct of the officers?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that the departmental inquiry should also have to be held in the same manner as the other inquiry. So there would be duplication.

[**Shri Krishna Menon:**] That is not the whole of the facts. [There have been departmental inquiries. There have been two inquiries on this matter. A very reputable, high-level officer, the Scientific Adviser, held one inquiry, and held one view. Another officer has expressed another view. That is why this Committee has been appointed. There are technical matters involved in this.]

**Shri Hem Barua:** To bridge the two views!

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### Boot Plant at Kanpur

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\*349. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Pangarkar:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 86 on the 18th November, 1959 and state the further progress made towards the establishment of a boot plant in Harness and Saddlery Factory, Kanpur?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah):** Order for plant and machinery has been placed by the State Trading Corporation on Czechoslovakian suppliers.

Necessary preliminary action has been initiated for the installation of

the Boot Plant at the Harness and Saddlery Factory, Kanpur.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** In reply to the previous question, the hon. Minister said that experts were now drawing up a plan for production. May I know what is the approximate production capacity of this plant?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** We propose at the moment to produce, after installation of the new machinery, about 1 lakh pairs per year.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** In reply to the the previous question, the hon. Minister said that it was likely to be established during 1960. May I know whether it will be established in early 1960 or in the latter part of 1960?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** The order has been placed, and I understand it takes ten months for the machinery to come. That is where the matter stands.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether Government have considered this fact, that such sort of plan cuts across the Government's own policy of encouraging cottage and small-scale industries? They must have considered this matter. This is an item which has been supplied by the cottage and small-scale industries to U.S.S.R. and other countries. How far does this plan affect the cottage industry...

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to allow a discussion regarding this matter during Question Hour. He has asked the question. That is sufficient.

**Shri Krishna Menon:** We have taken this matter into consideration. It may have some effect in a prejudicial way on cottage industry, but side by side with it, we have taken the requirement of the Defence forces, which must be prominent in our minds, into consideration.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** May I know from where the boots are being purchased uptill now?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** We are purchasing from the civil trade—various small-scale manufacturers.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** What is the cost of this plant?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** About Rs. 3½ lakhs.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What is the approximate amount spent every year on the purchase of these boots for the Army from civil sources?

**Shri Krishna Menon:** We want notice.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** Are the plants which were producing the boots still lying idle?

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** There has been some idle capacity in that factory and we propose to utilise it fully, and also have additional machinery. That is the scheme.

#### Helicopter Purchase Programme

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{ **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:**  
 \*350. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Radha Raman:**  
**Shri A. M. Tariq:**  
**Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:**  
**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 725 on the 9th December, 1959 and state:

(a) the progress made in Government's consideration of the helicopter programme;

(b) in how many cases of offers received from the manufacturers demonstrations were arranged; and

(c) with what results?