

Sale of parts of Centurian tanks

1396. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently sold to a Canadian Jewish firm spare parts of Centurian tanks for Rs. 70 lakhs which is one tenth of their book value;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an essential certificate required from the end-users to the effect that the spares would not fall into the hands of the enemy or undesirable country was also not obtained from the firm and that the procedure required to be followed in such deals was by-passed;

(c) if so, whether any efforts were made to find out an interested Indian party and the considerations which weighed with the Government to sell the spares to a foreign firm at such a low cost; and

(d) the reasons for by-passing the procedure required to be followed in such deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). In November 1979, a letter was addressed to a large number of parties, both Indian and foreign as well as selected Indian Embassies and High Commissions requesting for offers separately for the purchase of Centurian tanks, spares and ammunition. The offers received were mainly for tanks; there were no meaningful offers for spares and ammunition. Further enquiries were subsequently made for the sale of spares alone from parties who had made offers for spares alongwith the tanks or had shown interest in them. The sale was concluded with a Canadian Public Ltd. Company of 3000 tonnes of Spare Parts for \$ 9000,000 (Rs. 70 lakhs approx.) The book value of the total available quantity of about 5000 tonnes of spare parts representing their purchase price was Rs. 6.40 crores. The deal was negotiated following the

normal procedure, after obtaining necessary approval and to the best advantage of the Government. The spares had become obsolete and could have fetched only the metal scrap value within the country. The price realised was much more than the value of metal scrap.

The sale was against an International Import Certificate issued by the Canadian Government. The Canadian High Commissioner in India had confirmed in writing that once the spares reached Canada, re-export to third countries needed an export permit which was generally not given for export to states involved in, or under imminent threat of hostilities and to South Africa. The spares were shipped on a vessel belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India with instructions to deliver them only at the Canadian port. It was thus ensured that these spare parts reached Canada and would not be diverted or re-exported to undesirable destinations.

Sale of Centurian Tanks

1397. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR:
PROF. A. K. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sold a large number of Centurian tanks declared obsolete;

(b) if so, the number of the Centurian tanks which have been disposed of giving their book value;

(c) the price at which the tanks have been disposed of and the manner in which these tanks have been sold; and

(d) whether, before selling these tanks Government had considered the possibility of retrieving some of them with the spares available? If not why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). In

December, 1977, 90 obsolete Centurian tanks were sold at a price of \$ 21,000 each FOB Bombay, after they had been phased out from the Indian Weapon System. Having been phased out, there was no question of retrieving some of them with the available spares. The book value of these tanks was Rs. 6.13 lakhs each. The sale was concluded on the basis of competitive offers received from several prospective buyers.

Harassment to Employees of SC/ST Survey of India

1398. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI; Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that planned harassment is being done to the employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes working in the Office of Survey of India, R. K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) whether the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Association represented against such harassment;

(c) if so, the number of cases of such harassment; and

(d) the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b), (c), and (d). Representations have been received from two such Associations, viz., All India Federation of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Backwards & Minorities Employees Welfare Associations (Regd.) New Delhi, and Survey of India Scheduled Castes/Tribes Employees Welfare Association, New Delhi, both unrecognised, against alleged non-observance of instructions relating to reservations for candidates belonging to SC/ST, alleged victimization and discrimination in promotion tests of SC/ST employees as well as certain individual cases of alleged prejudicial

attitude towards SC/ST employees. The points raised were carefully looked into and it was found that there was no substance in the allegations.

Thefts in Houses of Members of Parliament

1399. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of thefts in Delhi residences of Members of Parliament reported from January, 1980 to 15th October, 1980;

(b) the number of cases in which culprits have been apprehended; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a). 23 cases of thefts from the residences of Members of Parliament in Delhi were reported during this period.

(b) 21 persons have been arrested in 13 of these cases.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

1. Mobile patrolling in the area has been intensified.
2. Special attention is paid to verification of antecedents of servants.
3. Pickets have been deputed at vulnerable points.
4. Motor cycle patrolling is done round the clock.

Fixation of Quota of Promotion from State Services to IAS and IPS

1400. SHRI VIRDHJ CHANDER JAIN; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Administrative Reforms Commission unanimously recommended to fix quota of promotion from State Services to IAS and IPS at 40 per cent;

(b) whether Union Government have fixed this quota at 33-1/3 per cent only;