

Allotment of land to Families of killed Soldiers and Disabled Servicemen of District Jhunjhunu of Rajasthan

9697. SHRI SHIV NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casualties and disablement suffered by defence personnel from District Jhunjhunu of Rajasthan during Indo-China war 1962, Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971; and

(b) in how many of these cases land has not been given to their families or to the disabled persons by the State Government of Rajasthan according to the declaration of the State Government and what steps are being taken to clear the pending cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Equipment and Supplies procured by Defence Ministry from Private and Public Sectors

9698. SHRI MADHU L'MAYE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the equipment and supplies of all description procured by the Defence Ministry from the private sector and public sector (other than its own ordnance depots, factories and establishments) in the year 1973-74;

(b) the agencies through which supplies and equipment from the private sector were obtained;

(c) whether any study has been made by the Department of the magnitude of the profits made by the private sector on different cate-

gories of supplies etc. as also of the commission and consideration charged by the agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A total sum of Rs. 446.76 crores was spent on the procurement of defence equipment and supplies of all description from the private sector and the public sector in the country (other than the Ordnance Factories, Factories and other Defence Establishments) in the year 1973-74.

(b) There are several agencies through which the requirements of Services are procured from the private sector. The more important of these, for purchases in India, are as follows:

(i) Director General Supplies and Disposals.

(ii) Army Purchases Organisation of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, (for food stuffs and food grains).

(iii) Department of Defence Supplies (for indigenous substitutes for imported items as also other items where development effort is involved).

(iv) Local purchases under powers vested in various authorities subordinate to the Government.

(c) Major agency for procurement through private sector is DGS&D. No special study has been made by DGS&D to assess the quantum of profits made by the private sector against contracts placed on them by the DGS&D. However, by and large, purchases are made by DGS&D on the basis of tender system and contracts are awarded on the basis of competitive prices, subject to technical suitability, satisfactory past performance

and delivery requirements of the indenter. DGS&D. satisfy themselves about the reasonableness of prices by comparison with the last purchase price paid, indenter's estimated rates and other information available with them and the market conditions at the juncture.

(d) As a purchasing organisation DGS&D have no statutory authority to enforce any limit on the commission/profit the firms include in their quotations.

Reduced Quantity of Coal for Road Transport

9699. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantities of coal for road transport have been reduced in recent years;

(b) the proportions allocated as between road haulage and railways in the years 1972/1973; and

(c) whether coal shortage has been aggravated by the poor performance of the railways and their failure to carry out their additional responsibilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No allocation between road and rail is made by the Government. However, generally about 80—85 per cent of the coal moves by rail and the balance by other means including road transport.

(c) The Railways have been doing their best to transport as much coal as possible but due to a series of staff agitations on the Railways as well as other operational difficulties, the

quantity of coal transported by rail has fallen recently.

Lock out in Aluminium Corporation of India, Jaykanagar

9700. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Aluminium Corporation of India, has declared a lock-out at their Jayakanagar plant, West Bengal; and under what circumstances this step was taken by the management;

(b) whether it has been alleged that the company has sold aluminium products, stores and spares during the lock-out period; if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether these materials were under hypothecation against overdraft from the Central Bank of India; and

(d) if so, how it has been transacted and where the money deposited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (d). Consequent on a strike by its employees in early September, 1973, the Aluminium Corporation of India declared a lock out of its plants.

Representations have been received alleging that the Aluminium Corporation of India during the lock out period removed finished and semi finished processed stock and raw materials and even available stores and spares which were under hypothecation with Central Bank of India. Government is considering the action to be taken to meet the situation arising out of the closure of the Aluminium Corporation of India.