

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2923
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
PURCHASE OF BULLETS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CBI has filed an FIR against four senior officials of his Ministry for committing major irregularities in the purchase of bullets for 130 MM and 122 MM guns from a foreign company as has been brought out in the `Dainik Jagaran` dated November 18, 2001;
- (b) whether the consignment of bullets left Singapore on May 31, 1993 while the officials of his Ministry issued inspection certificate on May 30, 1993 without any inspection;
- (c) whether any official had gone to Singapore for inspection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether after inspection of the bullets the same were found unworthy by DGQA;
- (f) whether before placing the requirement on the foreign company its credentials were got verified;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether the said company is untraceable now; and
- (i) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Yes Sir, CBI has filed an FIR on 27.7.2001.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e) Yes, DGQA declared the 130 MM ammunition as `UNFIT FOR USE` after Proof Test in India.
- (f) & (g): The vendor had come for negotiations to India. It was assumed that the representative of the vendor had the authority to quote, negotiate and enter into contract on behalf of the firm. No formal verification was carried out.
- (f) Yes, Sir.
- (g) The case was referred to CBI for investigation on 20.4.2000. A First Information Report was filed by CBI on 27.7.2001 against the vendor and officers of Ministry of Defence who had handled this case.