

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6763
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
UTILISATION OF TYRES AND TUBES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CAG has observed while carrying audit of Ordnance Factories that huge stock of 15,185 tyres and 6,669 tubes were lying unutilised due to failure to implement policy on usage of sand-cum-highway tyres by entire Task Force;
- (b) if so, whether the life of 5,492 tyres and 6,669 tube valuing Rs. 1.66 crores had already expired;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have ordered any Court of Enquiry or investigation to fix responsibility for non-implementation of policy decision and incorrect assessment of requirement resulting over provisioning of tyres and tubes;
- (d) if so, the facts of the case/out come of investigation and persons held responsible for this loss; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such losses in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) In Para 23 (Case-II) of the C&AG Report No. 7 of 2002 (Defence Services), it has been stated that stocks of 15185 tyres and 6669 tubes were lying unutilised due to the failure to implement policy on usage of Sand-Cum-Highway tyres. These Sand-cum-Highway tyres had been procured for use on Jonga vehicles, since an operational necessity was felt to maintain the momentum of troops during training and operational moves in the desert and semi-desert terrains. Sand-cum-Highway tyres had been procured in addition to the normal cross country tyres as these were to be used only during training/operational moves. Keeping these reserves of Sand-cum-Highway tyres/tubes was an operational necessity.

(b) It has been stated in the Audit Para that shelf life of 5,492 tyres and 6,669 tubes had already expired. Expiry of shelf life of tyres/tubes is directly linked to the climatic conditions and storage conditions where these are stored. The said Sand-cum-Highway tyres were kept under ideal temperature/storage conditions thereby ensuring their full serviceability which was proved by their subsequent utilisation wherein full kilometerage was obtained and no defect reports were received. 100% tyres and tubes have already been utilised completely and satisfactorily. These tyres and tubes are also usable in case of the newly introduced Jeep M&M 55OXD and, therefore, the necessity of keeping this reserve continues to exist.

(c) In view of the satisfactory utilisation of entire quantity of tyres and tubes, Court of Enquiry was not felt necessary.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.