

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3749
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SURFACE WHEEL LATHES
THOMAS HANSDA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether COFMOW (Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops) has invited tender from indigenous manufacturers for supply of 6 No. surface wheel lathes, which are urgently required by Indian Railways;
- (b) whether above said tender had been cancelled after advertising in all newspapers after spending huge amount for advertisement;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Railway propose to import these machines and to suit the importation, tender specifications have been revised;
- (e) the reasons Railways propose to import these wheel lathes irrespective of the fact that there are two established manufacturers in the country including one PSU in Bihar;
- (f) whether Railways propose to procure all imported machinery irrespective of indigenous capacities, citing Indian manufacturers performance as very poor; and
- (g) if so, the facts thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. COFMOW had invited an advertised tender for 6 surface wheel lathes on July 10, 2003.
- (b) & (c) Under Bid Invitation Tender No. OPB-194, dated July 10, 2003, offers have been invited for seven different types of machines, one of which is wheel lathes.

The tender for wheel lathes only was cancelled by COFMOW because on June 20, 2003, Railway Board asked them to upgrade the specifications for wheel lathes and to invite Global Tenders.
- (d) The tender specifications are being upgraded to meet Indian Railways` requirements for quality, productivity, reliability and lowest life-cycle cost for these costly assets.

The decision to import or to buy indigenous machines would depend on the merits of the offers that are received. The effort would be to buy the lowest technically suitable offer based on the criteria spelt out in the tender.
- (e) The two indigenous manufacturers are expected to bid when fresh tenders are invited. They may do so on their own or in technical collaboration with any other supplier, as needed to meet the railways requirements. There is no a priori decision to import.
- (f) & (g) There is no proposal to procure only imported machinery. Any decision to purchase from a particular source is based on facts applicable to the purchase case in question.