

12.32 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—1970-80—

contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence. The Deputy Prime Minister.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, a large number of hon. Members took part in the Defence budget debate. It is quite natural that on the Defence budget, the Members should survey the security environment of the country; and all these surveys include the developments in various parts of the world; and especially those nearer home had to be taken into consideration. I am glad that many Members have drawn attention to those developments. I will not devote much time to them; but the fact remains that during the past year, since the last budget was presented, there have been several important developments in the world. On the one side, efforts have been made for arms restrictions; and even disarmament has been pleaded. At one stage, it appeared that they will bear fruit. But the subsequent developments have belied that hope; and there have been developments which cause concern to all peace-loving people.

In recent time, there have been developments which may lead to wider repercussions. The recent development in Viet Nam is one which has been deplored by all thinking nations of the world. Nation after nation has demanded the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Viet Nam. Only recently, some developments took place in Afghanistan and in Iran; and these developments have a very intimate bearing on the security aspect of our country.

Members have referred to the arms supply to some of the countries in

our neighbourhood—China and Pakistan. Government of India is not unmindful of these developments. In our Defence preparedness, all these developments have to be taken into consideration. It is correct that in case of an emergency it is not only the Defence forces which fight for the country. The whole nation is involved in it. And our past experience has shown—and that was an encouraging feature—that the entire nation has stood behind the Armed Forces in their effort to protect the honour of the country. But all the same, we have to keep the defence forces in a position in which they will be able to face any eventuality. And for that purpose we have to introduce in the Armed Forces the most modern weapons, equipment and other accessories. Our country is a developing country. The standard of living of people in this country is perhaps the lowest in the world. We have to devote greater attention to development. But I do not regard entire expenditure on defence as non-developmental expenditure. A very large proportion of the defence expenditure is intimately related to development and a large proportion is indirectly related to development. I need not elaborate on this. Effective defence depends upon the industrial base of the country, not the defence industries alone but industry in general. Many of the requirements of defence industries generate development in the general industrial sector, of things which are required by the defence industry.

Our main effort at present is not to increase manpower of the defence forces but certainly increase the efficiency and firepower of the defence forces. With this objective, in view we have embarked upon large scale modernisation of the defence forces. Some of our weapons and other equipment and accessories are ageing and when we have to replace those ageing weapons and equipment, certainly no prudent person will think

of replacing them by the same model. When you have to change your car, if you have got a 1955 model car, in 1979 you will not change and replace it by 1955 model but you will perhaps think of replacing it by 1980 model.

MR. SPEAKER: We do not like to have a car at all.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: You have aircraft, Sir.

That is our approach in modernising the army. We have introduced greater mobility and greater fire power and a reliable communication system. We are doing that.

Some friends mentioned about Vijayanta tank. That is one of our good tanks. I have been assured by those who have to use it that Vijayantas are very useful tanks and can take care of the task that is to be entrusted to them quite successfully. We are also thinking of introducing other modern battle tanks in the armed forces. My approach in recent times has been that whatever we import from other countries if that item is required in large numbers in this country, we not only import those items but import the technology as well. That has been the approach and that approach will continue in respect of tanks, aircraft and other things that we require for the armed forces.

I have mentioned about the arms supply in our neighbourhood. I do not compare the holdings of other countries with our own holdings. Some friends have quoted figures as to the number of aircrafts, tanks and divisions which other countries have been holding and which we hold. I would not like to corroborate or contradict those figures. But the defence of the country does not depend entirely on the holdings of a nation. It depends also upon the quality of men that the nation has got. More than machine, the Man behind the machine is important. It has been

demonstrated on more than one occasion that even the most modern machine in inept hands is unsuccessful, while and even not so modern weapons in very skillful and patriotic hands are more devastating than others. That aspect has also to be taken into consideration.

We have a long frontier. On the north, we have the Himalayas. At one time it was regarded that the Himalayas are impassable. With the development of science and technology that position does not hold good. So, we have to take care of the Himalayas also. The House is aware that after the Chinese aggression, we have raised Mountain divisions and we have trained our forces in mountain warfare and in guerilla warfare at high altitudes, on snow-bound Himalayas, on the peaks. We have developed the expertise and we can transport all their requirements on the high altitudes including tanks.

We have a long land frontier and I need not remind the House of the situation that exists on our western and northern frontiers. We have to take care of that. We have a large area as deserts. We have developed the necessary expertise for quick transportation in the desert area also. It has been achieved by our research and development.

We have a long coastline. The Indian Ocean has become very strategic. Thinking nations of the world have pleaded on more than one occasion that the Indian Ocean should be left as a zone of peace. All the littoral countries generally have supported this. They have been demanding this thing. All the same, we cannot ignore the fact that some of the big powers of the world are present on the Indian Ocean and are present in strength.

Many members have pointed out the small allocation to the development of the Navy. It is true that

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during the past years, as much attention was not paid to the Indian Navy as it was paid to other arms of the defence forces. But in recent years, we have started paying attention to the Indian Navy also. As a matter of fact, in the past years, it was not perhaps appreciated that the Indian Navy also has a role to play. It was during the 1971 confrontation that the country came to know that there was an Indian Navy and that the Indian Navy was an effective Navy. Since then, naturally officers and men of the Indian Navy also have realised their importance. They have come to know that they have a role, and an important role, to play. Therefore, we are modernising the Indian Navy also. Contrary to the other arms of the defence forces, in equipment of the navy, it takes a long time. When a warship or frigate has to be built, it takes long years. But we have developed the expertise and the House will be happy to learn that we have manufactured some of the warships in our own country's yards. Of course, the number of our submarines is small. But at present we are negotiating the possibilities of acquiring submarines and also manufacturing them in this country.

We have an aircraft carrier that played a role in the last confrontation. That has become old and aged. We are trying to rejuvenate it; the process has started for re-conditioning the Vikrant.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It means more money for the military hardware merchants in the West.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As the House is aware, we are acquiring Sea Harriers for the Vikrant.

Some Members asked why secrecy is being maintained about many things of our Weapons etc. well, the reasons are obvious. But, so far as Members of Parliament are concerned, I am extending a standing invita-

tion to all the members that if they decide in batches to visit some of our undertakings, we will be happy to have them and show them all our ships, aircrafts, submarines, tanks, missiles, whatever they would like to see. But, certainly, the House will not like me to disclose all that I have...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: So, I am happy this House also realises the importance of secrecy, which has been criticised by some

The Air Force plays a very important role in modern warfare, independently as also in support of the other arms of the defence forces. We have to modernise the Air Force also. We have started upon that. During the last confrontation, our Air Force established a reputation for itself. As the House is aware, we are acquiring Jaguar in order to replace the aging Canberra.

I am sorry that Jaguar is still haunting some people. Jaguar was discussed on more than one occasion in this House. Shri Raj Narain has gone into it in detail.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a nightmare.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am happy he has become an expert, so far as aircrafts are concerned. I do not claim that expertise. On technical matters I have to be guided by my advisers. In all such matters, the House would agree, I should not be guided by anybody else except by those who have to use that machine. In the matter of Jaguars also, I have been guided by the highest authorities in the Indian Air Force.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: But basically there is no need to buy it, because Pakistan has shifted its aircrafts to the interior.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Does the hon. Minister say that there is no need for a Parliamentary scrutiny? If the hon. Minister takes that view, the House will not go by that. The House has also got some competence, must be credited with some knowledge and information on that. A statement that the hon. Minister will go by the weight of the opinion of exports...

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have not said even by implication that Parliament should not go into that. I would be the last person to deny Parliament that authority to examine everything. But certainly I will place before it what I feel is necessary; I hope the House will not deny me that freedom. Parliament is competent to go into that. I have to give the answer to that, but certainly I will be guided by the advice of those who have to use the machine in that matter. It does not mean that Parliament is not free to go into that question I have not meant that and if Shyambabu has taken me like that, I am sorry he has misunderstood me.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: This is the answer that has always been given with regard to this.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Of course, that is the only answer.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: A committee had gone into the particular matter, therefore, it should be treated as closed. That closes the scope for Parliament to discuss that matter.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It does not close, it has not closed. Some Members are so fond of Jaguars, they have gone on continuing to raise that question in every session of the House. How can I prevent them by what I am saying?

The question was raised by Mr. Dhanukrishnan whether the Jaguar is

require at all. What aircraft are required again has to be determined by those who have been placed in charge of the security of the country. Certainly Parliament will have to see whether that demand is justified or not. We require deep penetration aircraft. We have take in all factors into consideration. Rajnarainji said that he has got a comparative statement. That statement was also sent to us. That was thoroughly examined by the experts of the Air Force and the Ministry and after examining all those aspects, they came to the conclusion that for our requirements, Jaguar was the best machine available.

A few days back, a news item circulated by the UNI appeared in the press. It was mentioned in this House also. I am afraid the report which appeared in the newspapers about the Jaguar project running into rough weather is unfounded and misleading. On the contrary, the Jaguar programme is proceeding apace on the lines already provided in the basic agreement which was reached in October last. Supply, training, production and other arrangements are going ahead as planned. Jaguar will begin to arrive as contemplated in three months' time or so. It is not correct that there is any delay or hold-up. It is also not correct that there is any change in the payment terms as originally contemplated. It is fantastic to suggest that costs have gone up by Rs. 500 crores. On the contrary, there is no change in the earlier estimates of costs and escalations. Arrangements for indigenous production are going apace as planned. It is not correct that there is any delay in the schedule for indigenous production. Far from its being true that the current talks have broken down, the truth is that negotiations have already been completed and the final contract documents are on the point of being adopted. It is untrue that any British team has gone back to London as a result of breakdown in the talks, and it is also

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not correct that because of a breakdown, the Chairman of British Aerospace has been summoned to New Delhi. I do not think that it is necessary for me to say any more, or to compromise security by giving out details. The House is aware that certain interested parties have made efforts in one form or another to stall this programme particularly the indigenous production in India of a sophisticated aircraft such as the Jaguar. I am sorry that UNI which is a responsible news agency should have, wittingly or unwittingly, fallen a prey to reports obviously emanating from such interested source

I may inform the House that when this message came to the notice of official in the Defence Ministry on the teleprinter, the UNI authorities were contacted and they were informed that this news is a baseless news, that the UNI authorities should check up from their sources, whether there is any truth in this news or not and if, on that, they found that it was incorrect, they should do the needful. I am sorry, even after that the UNI did not think it proper to cross-check the news. They have not even the courtesy to ring back and say that it will not be possible for them, at that stage, to withdraw the news. I wanted to mention this because it may create an unnecessary misunderstanding not only in this country but in other countries also.

About Jaguar, I would mention that the price that will be paid is not only for the aircraft but with all its accessories and related things.

It was also said that it has a higher rate of accident. On the previous occasion, I had already given the percentage of accident in the case of Jaguar and the percentage of accidents in the case of Mirage F. 1 for every 1000 hours of flight. I need not go into all those aspects which have already been discussed in this House.

I may assure the House that no pressure or persuasion is taken into

consideration so far as purchases of our defence requirements are concerned. Perhaps, it will not be an imaginable event that Jaguar will be purchased in order to encourage the clothing industry of this country or the export of garment from this country to U.K. It will be a very inconceivable recompense to purchase Jaguar in lieu of the export of garment from this country. Because the point was raised, I thought it proper to mention this.

I may mention another thing that for the negotiation of Jaguar, a very high level team was set up. The Government has to be guided in technical matters by the highest technical skill available in the country and, in financial matters, by the highest possible financial authorities in the Government of India. It was done by them.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We know, in the Indian Airlines, the Hingorani's case, the purchase of aircraft case. We know all this.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As regard submarines, I have already mentioned. As I have said, we attach great importance to science and technology. In the Defence Ministry, we have some of the outstanding scientists of the country. We attach great importance to research and development as far as defence is concerned. I have assured my Scientific Adviser that no work will be permitted to suffer for want of funds. The new Scientific Adviser is re-organising the entire research and development section and we are going to give them some tasks which have to be completed within a reasonable period. In the field of defence research and development, another important thing is that time factor has to be taken into consideration. If research takes unduly long time, perhaps, by the time the result of the research has been established, what they have achieved may become antiquated. That aspect is always kept in view.

13.00 hrs.

In this regard I will say something about HAL because it was mentioned that there has been large scale infructuous expenditure. If the country wants to be self-supporting, self-reliant, if the country has to develop the expertise and manufacture many things that are required by the Defence forces, we have to undertake research and development on a wide scale, and it is also correct that, when research and development are undertaken on a large scale, there is bound to be some infructuous expenditure, especially in the aeronautic industry.

The House is aware that HAL started designing of aircraft almost simultaneously with licenced production in the Fifties. Several design projects of HAL resulted in actual series production of aircraft in adequate numbers. The production lines were closed only after meeting the full requirements. This was the case with HT-2 piston trainer, PUSHPAK and KRISHAK. HF-24 orders were, however, reduced by Air Force on the basis of changed equipment plans. KIRAN, which has been designed and developed by HAL, is still continuing in production. Similarly, a modified version of Gnat, called AJEET, has been designed by HAL and is still continuing in production. The production line of BASANT, designed for agricultural purposes, had to be closed down after manufacturing 39 aircraft as at present there is no demand for fixed wing aircraft in the country.

During the last 30 years, 35 per cent of the total number of aircraft manufactured by HAL have been based on indigenous designs.

While we are laying considerable stress on indigenous design and development of aircraft, its engines, accessories and avionics, it is necessary to import technology; both to meet

the immediate requirements, and also to keep abreast of the latest state of art. While entering into licence agreements, we are ensuring that licence production is not detrimental to the objective of indigenous development.

I will again repeat that I attach great importance to research and development and I will give every encouragement so far as research is concerned so that we become more and more self-reliant so far as defence requirements are concerned.

The House is aware that, as a result of the efforts of our Research and Development Section, we have been able to manufacture many things which we used to import in this country, and we will continue that effort.

As I have said; men as well as machine and men count. We have a fine Army, we have a fine Air Force and we have a fine Navy. Our officers and jawans have acquitted themselves well whenever the nation had demanded of them; whenever there has been any emergency on the borders of the country, they have repulsed that; whenever the country has been faced with some natural calamities, they have also rushed to render rescue and relief to the suffering humanity. We will have to take good care to see that their service conditions are satisfactory. Some hon. Members talked about the morale of the Armed Forces. Sir, I will say with the intimate relation that I try to maintain with all ranks of our Armed Forces, that their morale is quite high.

Some members tried to compare the prospects on the civil side with the prospects in the Defence Forces. I will humbly submit that the two are not comparable. The structure, the objectives, the charter of duties and the responsibilities of the two sectors are quite different from each

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other. Therefore, they are not comparable. We have only to see that the conditions in the Defence Forces are satisfactory. And it has been my effort to improve the service conditions as far as we can. I can say with some satisfaction that I have been responsible for introducing some new measures to improve the service conditions of the Armed Forces.

One or two matters are causing some anxiety. After the Chinese aggression, large-scale recruitment was made in the Air Force and the Army at the Lieutenant level. In the Army at the Major level at present some stagnation situation has started. It has come to my notice and I am trying to take remedial measures to remedy the situation.

So far as the Dearness Allowance is concerned, the limit of Rs. 2400 was causing some difficulties in the rank position in the Army and in the Air Force. I am happy that this position is going to be resolved very shortly.

The rehabilitation of the demobilised personnel of the Defence Forces is a big problem. We demobilise nearly 60,000 men every year. We have certain reservations in posts in the Central Government and some of the State Governments for the demobilised ex-Servicemen. As was stated, Sir, I introduced the scheme that six months before demobilisation, the Jawan should be trained in some art or craft so that after demobilisation he finds either paid employment or can start self-employment. We pursued it with the Banks to give advances to ex-Servicemen to start industries or enterprises at concessional rates of interests—upto Rs. 5000, at a nominal interest of 4 per cent and upto Rs. 25,000 at a nominal interest of 7 per cent. These are some of the measures that we have introduced in order to help in the rehabilitation of the ex-Servicemen. For Officers also we have introduced training and re-orientation course so that they will be

readily acceptable in civil employment.

But, as the House will appreciate, the problem is a big problem. With the employment position in the country being as it is, we cannot think of resolving it unless the entire unemployment problem in the country is resolved. But, all the same it has been my effort to do as much as we can for ex-servicemen.

My hon. friend, Shri Bhadoria raised the question of group insurance in the Defence Forces. It has already been introduced. And so far as personnel who laid down their lives during war to protect the security and honour of the country is concerned, I remember, I introduced in the last war a scheme of pension to the bereaved families which is unique in the world. The jawan's family gets more than his salary as pension and, in the case of officers, the bereaved family gets three-fourth of the officer's salary as pension after death. In recent years, I introduced another change that whenever defence personnel are involved in air accident, a compensation of one lakh of rupees is paid to the bereaved family.

There have been other issues raised which are of local or sectional importance. I do not propose to go into all of them but I can assure the House that I will examine them, everyone of them and take necessary action to remedy the defect wherever it has been noticed.

Sir, I am thankful to the House and it is rather fortunate for the country and the Defence Ministry that the House wants larger allocations for the Defence Ministry. I am fortunate and I must express. (*Interruptions*).

श्री सुरन्द्र विक्रम (शाहजहाँपुर) :
कटौती प्रस्ताव वापस लेने चाहिए और
बढ़ोत्तरी कर देनी चाहिए ।

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am grateful to the House for all the encouraging words that have been said about Defence Ministry and also about me personally. On this occasion, Sir, I would like to convey to the officers and brave people in the Defence Forces the appreciation not only of the House but also of the Nation for the patriotic way in which they have conducted themselves to protect the honour and security of the nation. And the House is sure that, in future, whenever such a contingency arises, they will improve upon their records and establish the reputation of the country. On behalf of the House, I may assure the officers and men of the Defence Forces that it shall be my endeavour to secure as much improvement in their conditions of service and emoluments as I can do. Sir, I have done.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I put the cut motions to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence to vote, I would like to know if any of the Members would like to withdraw his cut motions.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, I seek leave to withdraw my cut motions Nos. 40 to 50.

Cut motions Nos. 40 to 50 were, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU (Katwa): You may read them out.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a large number of cut motions. It will be very difficult.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU: May I read?

MR. SPEAKER: No, No.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU: Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my cut motions; Nos. 72 to 88.

Cut motions Nos. 72 to 85 and 87 and 88 were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1980, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 19 to 24 relating to the Ministry of Defence."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants, 1979 in respect of the Ministry of Defence voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 16-3-1979	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
19	Ministry of Defence	16,79,79,000	10,64,82,000
		83,98,99,000	33,24,08,000