

Road and other places at Rs. 2500 a piece and tractor tubes priced at about Rs. 225 are being sold to farmers openly in Delhi at Rs. 750 apiece? Would he like to go into this matter and institute an inquiry into this?

SHRI T. A. PAI: We have already gone into the matter where complaints of certain shortages of tractor tyres, particularly rear tyres, were there. We have now encouraged more factories to go into this production. Before long, I hope the complaint the hon member has made will disappear.

Border Violations by China

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*22. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA
GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether border violations have been committed recently by China;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent news reports that lakhs of Chinese soldiers are being stationed in our Northern border; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL). (a) and (b). Except for the incident on 20th October, 1975, in which four of our security personnel were killed in an ambush by the Chinese, 500 metres inside our border, there has been no other significant incident on our border with China.

(c) and (d). Government have seen press reports to this effect. Our security forces are maintaining constant vigilance on the borders.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The hon. Minister has not stated whether the

Government of India had lodged any protest to the Chinese Government over this incident of 20th October. Have Government done so, and if so, what is the reaction of the Chinese Government to it?

SHRI BANSI LAL: Sir, we have already lodged a protest with the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese Government have also lodged a protest with us.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the Chinese Government have also lodged a protest with us. I would like to know from the hon Minister, what kind of protest is this and I would also like to know, if these news reports are correct that Chinese troops are being stationed in large numbers on our borders, what sort of action our Government has taken to meet any eventuality?

SHRI BANSI LAL: So far as their protest is concerned they say that our jawans entered their territory. But, so far as the question of keeping a watch on our borders is concerned, we are keeping a constant vigil on our borders.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Quoting an un-named American agency, the Soviet Press Agency NOVOSTI recently reported that more than 1,80,000 Chinese soldiers have been posted on the Indian borders, apart from three lakhs in Tibet. This itself is sufficient to cause enough apprehension in our minds. Coupled with this, is the incident in which four of our security forces were killed on a day on which exactly thirteen years ago, the Chinese launched their first attack on India. Knowing fully well that the Chinese do not do anything on the spur of the moment, may I know, what is the assessment of the Government so far as these incidents are concerned?

Has it been done in order to give a morale booster to those forces which are trying to create instability in our region, and if so, whether the Government, apart from keeping a vigil on our borders, has taken sufficient steps to see that these forces which are trying to create instability and uncertainty within India are adequately curbed?

SHRI BANSI LAL Sir, we are looking after our borders very carefully and there is no cause for anxiety. Our troops are alert.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI That was not my question.

SHRI G VISWANATHAN To Part (c) of the question, the Minister has replied that he has seen the Press reports. It is the unfortunate fate of the Members to see the Press reports and put questions. But we would like to know more from the hon. Minister. He has neither denied nor confirmed the Chinese troop movements on our borders. I would like to know whether this is true or not.

If so what action is being taken?

SHRI BANSI LAL It is not in public interest to disclose the information.

Distribution of Essential Commodities Through Government Channels

*24 **SHRI M KALYANASUN DARAM** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have planned the distribution of essential commodities through Government channels; and

(b) the number of items that are at present being supplied to the consumers through Government channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A C GEORGE), (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) and (b) Soon after the Department of Civil Supplies and Cooperation was constituted, Regional Conferences of State Ministers for Food, Civil Supplies and Co-operation were held and a detailed strategy for augmentation and extension of the distribution system was planned for implementation to cover priority commodities vulnerable areas and weaker sections of the population. The public distribution system of fair price shops and retail outlets dealing with foodgrains, sugar, controlled cloth, kerosene, oil and soft coke was augmented and extended. The cooperative system was also extended. The essential Commodities Act which was amended by Parliament providing more deterrent punishment against offenders was strictly enforced in order to regulate distribution of items of mass consumption. The number of fair price shops has been increased to 2.30 lakhs. There are 29,000 retail outlets for controlled cloth, 1.66 lakhs retail outlets for kerosene and 6,000 retail outlets for soft coke mainly in the Northern region. Significant market intervention has been effected in urban areas through the consumer cooperative movement and in rural areas by service cooperatives and marketing cooperatives. The commodities distributed by cooperatives includes rice, wheat, coarse grains, sugar, vanaspathi, edible oils, soap, bread, safety matches, cloth, grocery items, exercise books, tea and baby food. The Department of Civil Supplies and Cooperation in cooperation with the State Governments and the various other Ministries concerned of the Government of India also devised an effective monitoring system for controlling prices and ensuring availability of essential commodities. Remedial action was taken to augment stocks in the pipeline, expedite movement of essential commodities to remote areas.