

U. S. Governments to increase their military presence in the Indian Ocean, because South Africa would be only at one end of the Indian Ocean? And does not the Government think that this affects our national interests, security interests, and from that point of view, have they made any strong representation directly to the U. K. Government?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is true that in support of their decision, the U. K. Government have invoked the Simons town Agreement, and they have made it known to the Special U. N. Committee that they are under some legal obligations in terms of this agreement to supply arms to South Africa, but this attempt of the U. K. has been criticised by us. We do not accept it, nor does the Special Committee on Apartheid.

Expansion of Ordnance Factories

*304. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for further expansion of the Ordnance Factories with a view to reaching a state of self-sufficiency in the matter of conventional weapons; and

(b) if so, the Ordnance Factories which are likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. Development and production of weapons and other defence equipment is a continuously evolving process. Consequently, a number of projects are always under consideration for production in the existing defence factories or in the new units to be set up for this purpose.

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am happy that we have reached the stage of self-sufficiency in the matter of conventional weapons. I would like to know whether it is a fact that at present in all the ordnance factories less than 50 per cent of the production capacity only is being utilised, whether there are any schemes to improve the position by utilising at least 70 to 80 per cent of the capacity and if so, what are the schemes.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is not true that in all the ordnance factories less than fifty per cent of the capacity is being utilised. However in certain ordnance factories there is less utilisation of the capacity. We have answered a question earlier in the Lok Sabha, for instance, about the clothing factory at Shahjahanpur....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My question does not relate to clothing factory; it relates to other factories, arms and ammunition factory, cordite factory and so on.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : There are certain factories which are not utilising the full capacity and we are continually looking for additional ranges of production for the benefit of our armed forces. We do not want to produce goods which are not needed merely for utilising the installed capacity. We have to balance the requirements with our capacity to produce and therefore we are keeping a constant watch on the entire sector.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is it a fact that after such a long time the Government has taken a decision to set up an Ordnance Production Board with a view to step up production in the ordnance factories and to decentralise the powers in the hands of various general managers and to give it to a properly constituted board and if so, has any final decision been taken or is likely to be taken about the association of workers in that Board?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This board has been set up and has actually started functioning from 31st May. We hope that with the setting up of this Board many decisions which normally took many months or even years sometimes to take would now be expedited. This Board is necessarily a board for administrative efficiency and expediency and therefore the question of workers' participation may not be quite relevant. What is more relevant is workers' participation in a greater measure on the factories where items are produced because this Board is necessarily a board to streamline the functioning of various agencies which are concerned with defence production in the country. This particular question of workers' participation, the extent, the manner and the way in which it should be done is being considered in respect of the various defence production units.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Is it possible for the Minister to let us know the target date by which we would be self-sufficient in the supply of conventional weapons ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have stated several times in the House that we are more or less self-sufficient in conventional weapons. There is no question of setting a target date in such cases. This is a dynamic process which goes on from year and to year. We have to keep pace with the rest of the world keeping in front the various kinds of weapons that are developed so that our armaments do not become obsolete. The question of complete self-sufficiency could never arise.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : May I know whether a certain percentage of the conventional weapons are now exported from India and if so which are the countries to which they are exported ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to another Ministry.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We do export certain varieties of conventional weapons. But I do not think that it is proper for us to disclose either the quantity or the countries which purchase arms from us.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There is acute shortage of small arms in the country resulting in large-scale smuggling of arms like revolvers, pistols, etc. There is no provision either in the ordnance factories or in the private sector to manufacture these arms. May I know if there is any scheme with the Government to stop smuggling and to have some unit in the public sector to provide small arms, especially in the border states so as to stop smuggling of small arms ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : According to the industrial policy resolution adopted by the House in 1952, it has been decided that the arms production, whether for civilian use or for the use of our armed forces, will be made entirely in the public sector. It is true that from time to time there have been demands from the public for certain types of arms or arms for personal safety or display and in the past when there was not a heavy rush on certain kinds of weapons, the ordnance factories were producing double-barrel breech-loading

shot guns and a certain variety of rifles which were converted from .303. But it is a fact that this has not been able to meet the entire demand in the country, and it is also a question to be considered whether we should allow or encourage the proliferation of arms into various areas where it could be misused. As the hon. Member knows, there are factories which have been going on for several years, before this particular policy decision was taken, in the small-scale sector and the cottage industry sector which are producing small arms, breech-loading weapons and also muzzle-loading weapons. As far as the Government is concerned, at present there is no intention to make any change in the policy.

Adulterated Food Articles in Delhi

*305 **SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether 10 to 30 per cent of the samples of food articles collected each month in Delhi are found adulterated ;

(b) if so, which are the articles usually found adulterated and what are the substances used for adulterating these articles ;

(c) What harm these substances will produce on human bodies ;

(d) Why food adulteration continues to be a major evil despite measures taken to combat it ; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to put a stop to this evil ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKER DIKSHIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The adulterants like lead chromate etc. used in spices or certain coal-tar-dyes used in confectionary, sweets etc. are toxic and carcinogenic in nature.

(d) The number of traders dealing in food articles is very large and they are widely dispersed all over the city. It is therefore diffi-