

sector although it is mentioned in the statement :

"On the other hand, certain orders in respect of some items like tents and durries which were being traditionally procured from private sector have been Placed on Ordnance Factories with a view to gainfully utilise the existing capacity in the Factories."

May I know whether it is fact that not even 50 per cent of the orders are placed on the ordnance factories but an other small manufacturers who can put the government into trouble in times of need ? Since we are facing confrontation with China and Pakistan, may I know whether the full capacity of the ordnance factories is being utilized so that there is no idle time and no employee is likely to be retrenched in the near future ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is not our policy to retrench any worker. So, hon. members need not have any worry on that score. As far as tents and durries being traditionally procured from the private sector is concerned, as I have already said, we have made a beginning with our ordnance factories. We have now asked the ordnance factories to take up production and production of these items has commenced in the ordnance factories. Because the production of this item was not so far done in the ordnance factories, they had some initial difficulties. They are getting over those difficulties. As I said earlier, we are having a very good measure of diversification of production in the clothing factories so that there is no idle time and the employee are fully absorbed in the work.

Arms to Pakistan from China

*154. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Will the **MINISTER OF DEFENCE (RAKSHA MANTRI)** be pleased to state :

(a) whether since the out break of the freedom struggle in East Bengal; China supplied additional arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether any other country also gave arms to Pakistan during the same period; and

(c) whether China assured Pakistan any direct help to her in case of any armed conflict with India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAKSHA MANTRALAYA (RAKSHA UTPADAN) MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI VIDYA-CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any other country having supplied additional arms during the same period.

(c) A message was sent on 12-4-71 by Premier Chou En lai to President Yahya Khan stating that China would "always fully support" Pakistan, should India commit aggression against her.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : In view of the developing ping-pong development between USA and China and the keenness of USA to give a seat to China in the UNO may I know whether the Government have drawn the attention of USA to the arms supply made by China to Pakistan which have adverse consequences upon the freedom struggle in Bangla Desh ? May I also know whether the recent note of the Government of India to the different world powers was also sent to China ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : US authorities know the situation fully and when they discussed the matter with us all the aspects of the question were discussed. So, it is not correct to presume that they do not know what role China is playing in the present crisis in Bangla Desh. As far as the Government of India is concerned, it has done its best to see that all world powers, particularly major powers, are kept fully informed of the current situation in Bangla Desh.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : May I know whether the same note has been sent to China also ? I want a categorical answer.

MR. SPEAKER : He is mixing up both Ministries, Defence and External affairs.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE : Both are represented here.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : We have not issued any circular of note. I do not know which is the note about which the hon. Member is asking.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Government have sent notes in regard to the developing situation in Bangla Desh to all world powers. I want to know categorically whether that has been sent to China also, may be in the form of a circular or a note.

MR. SPEAKER : Your question is about the statement by the Chinese Premier.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is a very categorical question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is very categorical but it is very ambiguous at the same time.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The question is quite categorical but it does not really relate to the question that the hon. Member has tabled. If he could ask a specific question, a specific reply could be given to him probably by the Minister of External affairs.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Sir, there is one very interesting question that I want to ask on a point of order. This question relates to the defence Ministry. How is the Minister of state for Finance answering it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : He is in defence now.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am extremely sorry. I apologise to you.

My next question is whether it is a fact that Pakistan is raising two divisions of its armed forces with the help of Chinese arms; if so, whether such strengthening of the defence forces in Pakistan will upset the defence balance between India and Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER : You are getting out too much from one simple question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : That is the consequence of the supply of Chinese arms to Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER : You are asking questions about army division.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : That is directly related to this. China is supplying arms to Pakistan and what they are doing with them we are entitled to know.

MR. SPEAKER : He may answer only about the arms supply.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is well known that China has been sympathetic to Pakistan in this matter. They have also announced that whatever aid is necessary for Pakistan to overcome the present difficulties or the supposed or alleged threat from India, they will be willing to give that to Pakistan. This information we have got and this is what has been printed in the newspapers also.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : He did not answer my question. I have categorically asked whether it is a fact that two divisions of additional forces are being raised in Pakistan with the help of Chinese arms; if that is so, whether it will upset the defence balance between India and Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER : I have declared this question as not relevant. He is not bound to answer that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : What more relevant question could be there I cannot understand. You should help me, this is a very relevant question.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to hear you. Shri Swaminathan.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Arising out of the reply given by the hon. Minister I would like to ask him whether since the assurance of Chou En-lai to Yahya Khan came after the much publicised Mao's smile, as if the smile had softened the attitude of China, may I know the present position whether it is sober or tense.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is well known that the relations between India and China are unfriendly.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न 'बी' से संबंधित है—क्या किसी अन्य देश ने श्री इसी अवधि के दौरान पाकिस्तान को हथियार दिये हैं ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या यह सच है कि चीन के प्रतिरिक्त ब्रिटेन, अमेरिका और सोवियत रूस ने पाकिस्तान को जो हथियार विदेशी हमले का सामना करने के लिए दिये थे, वे हथियार बंगला देश की जनता को कुचलने के लिए काम में लाए जा रहे हैं ? क्या इस सम्बन्ध में भारत ने इन देशों को कोई विधिवत् औपचारिक पत्र भेजा है, विरोध प्रकट किया है ? यदि किया है, तो उन का क्या उत्तर मिला है ? क्या यह सच है कि ब्रिटिश प्रधान मंत्री श्री हीथ ने पाकिस्तान को सहायता बन्द करने के हमारे अनुरोध को ठुकरा दिया है ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question is different from what you are asking. This is about the supply of arms.....

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं स्पष्टार्थ आफ़ आर्म्स के बारे में ही कह रहा हूँ...

MR. SPEAKER : The part (b) is : "(b) Whether any other country also gave arms to Pakistan during the same period; "

You are referring to the statement that came only today in the papers.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (RAKSHA MANTRI) (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : The question is whether the arms have been supplied to Pakistan after the trouble in East Bengal arose. What the hon. Member wants to know is about the use of arms supplied by various countries before the Bangla Desh trouble started.....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You have not gone through the question. It says "since the outbreak of the freedom struggle in East Bengal". How could it be before that ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Let the hon. Member have some patience. I am answering the question put by shri Vajpayee about the arms supplied before the outbreak of the trouble in Bangla Desh. His question was whether these arms are being used for crushing freedom movement in Bangla Desh. Our answer to the question has been that we have no information whether any other nations have supplied arms to Pakistan after the outbreak of trouble in Bangla Desh. I have nothing more to add.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Arising out of what the hon. Minister said just now, will the hon. Minister tell us if he has information that—I quote :

"Testifying before a joint committee of the U. S. Congress, Mr. Chester Bowles, former U. S. Ambassador in India, referred to Pakistan's efforts in recent years to secure additional tanks and disclosed that it was the U. S. Government which had asked one by one "the West Germans, the Belgians, the Italians and finally the Turks to sell one 100 American tanks to Pakistan for a nominal price."

There is another thing also—I quote :

"A member of the United States Senate Foreign Relation Committee charged yesterday that US supplied weapons have implemented and made possible the carnage in East Bengal and called for drastic limits on the export of U. S. arms."

I would like to know if he has information and, if so, what action he has taken in this regard.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. Minister has already answered in reply to question put by shri Vajpayee which referred to the arms supplies made prior to the uprising in Bangla Desh that this is not covered here. The question that the hon. Member has asked is about the supply of arms since the uprising in Bangla Desh. Therefore, this is really not arising out of this question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Arising out of what he has stated, the carnage

was possible by supply of U. S. arms during these disturbances they have been canvassing other countries to sell arms to them for carnage in East Bengal at nominal price.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Demand of Drugs during Fourth Plan

*155. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the rate at which the demand for drugs is expected to increase during the Fourth Plan period ; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to meet the increase in demand ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The demand for drugs is expected to increase during the Fourth Plan period at the rate of about 8 to 10 per cent per annum.

(b) The Development Council for Drugs & Pharmaceuticals has given in 1970 certain revised assessments of the demand for various drugs and pharmaceuticals during the Fourth Plan period. These assessments are reviewed by Government from time to time in consultation with the Directorate General of Technical Development and the Ministry of Health. On the basis of this review, expansion of existing units or creation of new capacities is licenced on merits after receipt of applications from manufactures. Imports are also resorted to meet urgent demands wherever necessary. Imports of certain essential bulk drugs and intermediates are canalised through State Trading Corporation.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I know whether Government has any concept of self-sufficiency and, if so, what is the time-horizon in which the Government is intending to achieve this self-sufficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Out of the total production of Rs. 250 crores, the import content is hardly Rs. 12 crores and to that extent we are also achieving self-sufficiency as far as this is concerned.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : I wanted to know whether Government wants to eliminate it within a foreseeable future. That was my question.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the production of pharmaceuticals is concerned I would like to tell him that we are not so advanced in the research of basic drugs and on account of that fact, sometimes we have got to import. Also I would like to point out in this connection that while we are importing Rs. 12 crores worth of drugs, we are, at the same time, also exporting Rs. 8 crores worth of drugs.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : I want to know whether it is within the knowledge of the Government that there is a serious public complaint that some of the medicines being imported by the STC are being charged very high prices by the STC and some raw materials which have been imported by it are lying in the stock because they have been in excess of the demand.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : When the Drug Price control was introduced, certain drugs went in shortage and on account of that import of certain drugs had to be resorted to, through the STC. The drugs which have been imported through the STC are pooled with indigenous production and are being sold to various manufacturers either by STC or through IDPL at pooled prices which apply to indigenous production also it is likely that on account of high costs of indigenous production in some basic drugs the price on account of pooling is higher than imported price.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : What about the second part of my question ? Some raw materials imported by the STC are lying in stock because they are in excess of the demand here.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Some basic drugs like tetracycline for instance are lying in stock because at one time there was shortage