

Views Expressed by Lt. Gen. Gill on Sensitive Issue of a Political Nature

*35. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lt. Gen. Gill, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, has written in news-paper expressing highly objectionable political views which are contradictory even to our Government's policy,

(b) the details thereof and reaction thereto,

(c) whether this is permissible;

(d) if not, what action the Government has taken against this official;

(e) whether in this connection a write-up appeared in New Age (Weekly) dated June 3, 1979 captioned "Ex-Major Exposes—Double Standards about Lt. Gen Gill" has been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(f) if so, reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (d). Government were disturbed to find confirmation that Lt. Gen. Gill did write this letter which was not only violation of prescribed Conduct Rules for serving officers of the Army, but also an instance for impropriety as well as indiscretion not expected from a General Officer. Ordinarily, Government would have taken a serious notice of such misconduct. However, in the present case, since the General Officer himself realised his mistake and expressed regret for his action and was due to retire from service in the next few days, it was decided to convey severe displeasure of the Government, which has since been conveyed to Lt. Gen. I. S. Gill.

(e) and (f). Government have seen the Press reports. The case of the officer mentioned in the report is different in circumstances from that of Lt. Gen. I. S. Gill. The officer mentioned in the report was tried by Court Martial under the Army Act for (a) making improper aspersions and insinuations against higher authorities; and (b) omitting to tender evidence when directed to do so

Extraction of L.P.G. from Bombay High

*36. SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) progress achieved so far with regard to extraction of LPG from Bombay High;

(b) whether Government have examined that the extraction of LPG, a substitute of Kerosene, will save foreign exchange which is at present being spent on the import of the item; and

(c) if so, assessment by Government of total quantity of LPG to be extracted and foreign exchange to be saved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The process design for the Gas Fractionation Plant to produce LPG has been completed. The purchase of equipment and the site construction work at Uran (Maharashtra) are in progress. The Gas Fractionation Plant is planned to be completed in May 1980.

(b) While taking a decision about the capacity of the Gas Fractionation Plant, etc., in 1978, this aspect was also examined.

(c) By processing a mixture of associated and free gas (50:50) at the rate of 4 million cubic metres per day, the LPG recoverable would be about 1,73,670 tonnes per annum. This could help avoid import of about 2 lakhs

tonnes of Kerosene value at about Rs. 50 crores in foreign exchange at pre-July, 1979 prices.

Violation of Indian Territory by Pakistan

*38. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA. Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times Pakistan has violated Indian Territory after February, 1979; and

(b) action being taken by Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) During the period 1st March, 1979 to 2nd July, 1979, there have been 5 intrusions of a minor nature and of no particular significance and 19 firing incidents, by Pakistani forces. This excludes intrusions by civilians. There were also 3 instances of air-space violation by Pakistani aircraft.

(b) Such incidents, which are not uncommon, are sought to be resolved at local levels through Flag Meetings between Sector Commanders. Air-Space violations are taken up through diplomatic channels.

Supply of Pig iron to Agra region

*39. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of pig iron for Agra region has been halved since the beginning of this year, thereby seriously affecting the production of the foundry industry, which is the second largest in the country and earner of foreign exchange; and

(b) have similar cuts been imposed in other regions; if not, why Agra alone has been singled out for such curtailments?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Supply of pig iron during the current year has been below the planned level mainly on account of fall in production due to difficulties in availability of coal and power leading to shut down of some of the blast furnaces at Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants. However, taking into account the overall availability of pig iron for sale, despatches to Agra region during the period January—June 1979 compared well with the other regions. As against the demand of 72,000 tonnes, 42,900 tonnes were despatched to Agra region, which works out 59 per cent, which is better than many other regions.

Commercial advertisements over A I R. and T.V.

*40. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for restricting and rejecting commercial advertisements over All India Radio and Television from 1st of May, 1979 onwards;

(b) the extent of loss of revenues to the Government on this score;

(c) whether there is no proposal to have a separate channel for commercials over the Television; and

(d) whether this would be implemented shortly so that commercial advertisements do not get depleted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Neither AIR nor Doordarshan has restricted commercial advertisements from 1st May, 1979. Doordarshan, however, has issued a circular to advertising agencies on 9th May, 1979 proposing certain ceilings on the time which could be booked by an advertising agency with each programme and imposing a limitation on the duration of each spot advertisement, with effect from 1st