

श्री के० के० शाह : दो प्रकार के स्टाफ आर्टिस्ट हैं, एक तो पक्के हैं और दूसरे कैजुबल हैं। कैजुबल स्टाफ आर्टिस्ट्स को भी आप पक्के स्टाफ आर्टिस्ट्स के साथ में मिला देते हैं।

PURCHASE OF TYRES BY CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, MALAD

*303. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 73 on the 27th March, 1967 and state :

(a) whether any tyres purchased by the Central Ordnance Depot have been found to be defective;

(b) if so, the arrangements made for the disposal of the defective tyres; and

(c) the amount involved in such defective tyres ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) 138 tyres have been reported to have failed prematurely.

(b) The 138 tyres have either been repaired/retreaded and issued out for re-use or have been disposed of in the normal manner when they became unserviceable.

(c) The total price paid for the 138 tyres was Rs. 49,680.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : May I know if the Government have conducted any enquiry to fix up the responsibility on the officer who purchased these tyres ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The Defence Department purchases its requirements through the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals. In this particular transaction, even the STC is included. A committee comprising of representatives of the Defence Ministry, the D.G.S.&D. and STC was constituted. They have made their recommendation asking the firm to pay the compensation.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : The supply of such defective tyres, especially to the Defence Department is a very serious matter. Have the Government looked into the matter very carefully to see that the concerned officer is rightly punished ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We have got the inspection wing, which has got expert officers to examine these things. But in this case, these tyres were supplied during

1962-63 and the defects have come to notice very late.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : May I know from the hon. Minister as to who were the contractors who supplied these tyres and whether there was any complaint against their conduct with the Government ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Messrs. Ram Kishen Kulwantrai were the importing agency. This party has been asked to pay the compensation. But the only difficulty is, since the supply period was 1962-63 the defects should have been pointed out to this firm much earlier. Because of that we are not able to get the compensation amount from this party.

श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार : मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो डिफेंस टायर्स थे वह सन् 65 में हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के युद्ध में इस्तेमाल किये गये ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Even when these tyres are sent to the units—the units have got their own surpluses—when they are fitted on to the vehicles, unless they are fit to go out on different terrains they would not be permitted to operate in any sector.

SHRI VIKRAMCHAND MAHAJAN : The hon. Minister stated that defects of these defective tyres were discovered very late. May I ask him whether there is no inspection done when purchases are made by the Defence Department ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Whenever anything is purchased by the Defence Department the Inspection Wing representatives have to examine them. They have to inspect the items purchased and only after that the purchases are made. In this case some defects have occurred somewhere because of which the tyres have been found to be defective. The responsibility has been fixed. They wanted to get the money from the contractors but because of the time factor we are not able to get the compensation.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Apart from taking any action on the company which supplied the tyres, the hon. Member has put a specific question whether responsibility has been fixed on the officer who entered into this deal. The hon. Minister before becoming a Minister was a mem-

ber of an important Committee and he also knows that the bureaucracy works in such a way that no responsibility can be fixed on anybody. I, therefore, want to pin-point the question. In case they are not able to get compensation from the firm concerned because of the time factor, may I know whether they have gone into this matter deeply and made a deep probe so that responsibility is fixed on the officer who indulged in this malpractice?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The information was given to this House on various occasions. The Public Accounts Committee has gone into this matter three times and two reports have been submitted. There was also a discussion that took place in this House and the Defence Minister has said that the people who were found responsible have been punished.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने कहा कि जब हम लोग खरीदते हैं तो उसके पहले इन्स्पेक्शन करते हैं लेकिन जब इनके पास माल सप्लाई किया गया है तो उस वक्त भी तो इन्स्पेक्शन होता है। क्या इस वक्त इन्स्पेक्शन किया गया था ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The Defence Ministry did not purchase only 138 tyres, they purchased a larger number of tyres out of which 138 tyres were found to be defective.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Sir, that cannot be a defence that because the Ministry purchased a bigger lot and only 138 were found to be defective it is not a serious matter.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Generally, Sir, in big stores like this there is a system under which at the time of admitting stores inside the stores they are checked. May I know whether it was the absence of such a system in this store that led to our not being able to find out the defect at the initial stage and it took us so long to find out the defect?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The system in the stores is perfect. When different items are issued to the units at that time the units have also got their own arrangement to check up whether the items issued fit into the vehicles and they are in good condition or not. Somewhere somebody has....

MR. SPEAKER : ...made a mistake; say that.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Out of the total number a few tyres have been found to be defective and it has come to our notice very late.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Because, in the beginning they said the mistake was found at a later stage. If it was found at a later stage, how can it be that the question was taken up at an earlier stage?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I said that the firm from which we claimed compensation took shelter under this and said that because these defects have been pointed out to them very late, so they were not prepared to give the compensation.

श्री मधु सिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, खराब टायरों के बारे में पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी के दो रपट हमारे सामने आ चुके हैं। अन्तर्विभागीय समिति भी बैठी थी। एक दफे, यहां पर बहस भी मैंने उठाई थी। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें जो लोग दोषी पाये गये, अधिकारी और कम्पनी, इनके खिलाफ विभागीय स्तर पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है, सरकारी स्तर पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है मतलब यह है कि ब्लैकलिस्टिंग या मुवतिली वगैरह, क्या कार्रवाई इनके खिलाफ की गयी है ?

दूसरी बात यह कि क्या इनमें से अफसरों के और कम्पनियों के जो लोग हैं उन के खिलाफ अदालतों में कोई मुकद्दमें बायर किये गये हैं, यदि नहीं, तो उस का कारण क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Departmental action against the army officer had been taken and this was reported to Parliament. There is no legal case yet pending against the firm. That matter is still under examination and legal advice is being obtained.

श्री मधु सिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। उन्होंने कहा कि लीगवे केस इजबलडिंग। मैंने पूछा था कि क्या आप इनके खिलाफ मुकद्दमा दायर करने जा रहे हैं, यदि नहीं तो उस का कारण क्या है, इसका साफ जवाब मंत्री महोदय दें।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have said that the matter is being examined in consultation with legal experts.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अब इन के दो उत्तरों को आप देखिये । अगर पहले उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा तो सीगल केस इज पेंडिंग और दूसरे में कहते हैं कि हम एग्जामिन कर रहे हैं

MR. SPEAKER : No case is pending, but what other action can be taken is being examined.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं केसेज के बारे में बोल रहा हूँ । मैंने पूछा है कि क्या उन के खिलाफ आप केसेज करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have already said that it is a legal matter and legal advice is being taken as to what is the form in which action can be taken.

श्री मधु लिमये : हर चीज के बारे में अध्यक्ष महोदय, यही हो रहा है । यह सरकार बिलकुल सड़ गई है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : अफसरों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

MR. SPEAKER : I think Shri Madhu Limaye is capable of taking care of himself.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : मेरे सवाल में दो बातें हैं एक कम्पनी के खिलाफ कोर्ट में जाना और दूसरे जो अफसर लोग हैं उन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करना । मुझे मालूम है कि जब लाखों रुपये का यह अफसर लोग फ्रीड करते हैं तो उनके खिलाफ कोई विशेष कार्यवाही नहीं होती है, उन को नौकरी से हटा दिया जाता है लेकिन जैसा मैं ने कहा कि वह रुपया पैसा लेकर घर में बैठ जाते हैं तो उन का नुकसान क्या है ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is a different question. I think we will discuss it during the Demands.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोई असर नहीं हो रहा है । आप जरा पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी के पीछे खड़े हो जाइये । उन को जरा आप कहिये, समझाइये कि यह देश की सुरक्षा का मामला है । इसमें आप को कुछ न कुछ अवश्य करना पड़ेगा । यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है ।

MR. SPEAKER : We will see what we can do.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया कि जब माल को खरीदते हैं तो डी० जी० एस० एंड डी० और एस० टी० सी० के नुमायदे वहां बैठते हैं और तब हम माल को खरीदते हैं इसलिए यह एक बड़ा अहम मामला है और ऐसा माल खरीदने के लिए उन पर भी जिम्मेदारी आती है क्योंकि सरकार डाइरेक्ट फर्म्स से डील नहीं करती है बल्कि वह उन से डाइरेक्टर जनरल आफ सप्लाइज एंड डिस्पोजल्स की मार्फत डील करती है इसलिए डी० जी० एस० एंड डी० के खिलाफ जिन्होंने कि यह घोखेबाजी वहां पर की है कोई ऐक्शन लिया है, उन के खिलाफ कोई दावा किया है, उन से कोई क्लेम सरकार ने पुट अप किया है और अगर नहीं किया है तो क्यों नहीं किया गया है ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : अरे भाई सरकार ने कुछ भी नहीं किया है ।

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा मंत्री महोदय को आप जवाब देने दीजिये ।

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We wanted the STC and also the DGS&D to own responsibility. They in turn constituted a committee. That committee has agreed that we should demand compensation from the firm.

SHRI MOHAMED IMAM : Though the purchases were made in the year 1961-62 the defect was discovered only after three or four years. During this interval were the tyres used or were they lying idle in the store room ? Secondly, what is the procedure adopted by the Defence Ministry for the purchase of tyres ? Do they call for tenders, samples of tyres etc. and mention the conditions of purchase in the terms of the contract ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : These tyres have been used. They have been fitted to vehicles, including Shaktiman vehicles. Only after use have they been discarded.

SHRI MOHAMED IMAM : Normally, the lifetime of tyres is one or two years.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The defects have been discovered; they have been re-treaded and after re-treading they have been issued to the units. The units have used them.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : For what period has this contractor been supplying tyres and what is the amount of deposit received by the department as deposit amount ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We do not receive the deposit amount nor do we deal with the firms directly; we deal with the firms through the Director General of Supplies and Disposals.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या सरकार के पास ऐसा भी कोई यन्त्र है या ऐसी कोई मशीनरी है कि जिस समय यह टायर खरीदे जायें उस समय इसकी पूरी खोजबीन कर लें कि इसकी मियाद कितनी है, इसमें ताकत कितनी है और यह जो डिफ़ैक्टिव टायर्स उस समय खरीदे गये तो उस समय जिन अफसरों ने इस बारे में लापरवाही बर्ती और जो इसके दोषी हैं उन के खिलाफ भी क्या आप ने कोई कार्यवाही की ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : This matter has come up here again and again and on the performance of tyres also a very clear statement was made here. I would reiterate the same. The performance of these tyres was judged with reference to the mileage performed by tyres which had been removed from the vehicles as beyond local repair or beyond economical repairs in comparison with the similar performance of standard indigenous tyres. The average kilometrage per tyre performed by these cordiatic tyres was 20,747 against the average kilometrage per tyre performed by indigenous tyres of 21,580.

श्री मधु लिमये : बिल्कुल गलत है। पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने नहीं माना है।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : In other words, the performance of cordiatic imported tyres was more or less the same as of indigenous tyres.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : What is the usual life of a good tyre and what is the difference between the two ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have given it.

SHRI PILOO MODY : From what has been said so far it seems that there are three places at which inspection takes place—firstly, when the purchase is made; secondly, when it is supplied to a unit the unit has its own inspection system; and, thirdly, after 21,000 kilometres of use. It is not quite clear whether the guarantees that they get from the manufacturers cover period one, two or all the three periods. Will the Minister please clarify ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There is no inspection as such at these three stages. This is the performance at various points. It is not that there is inspection at these three stages.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I am sorry, I asked the question.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am very sorry that I noticed it. I should have ignored it.

श्री मधु लिमये : अच्छा आप इन्फोर भी कर सकते हैं ? क्या आप सुपर स्पीकर हो गये ? मंत्री महोदय द्वारा प्रश्नों की अपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती है यह काम स्पीकर का है। मंत्री महोदय जग मंत्राल कर बोला करें।

BRITISH NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

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* 304. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore has sought India's co-operation for converting the existing British Naval base into a commercial dock-yard after Britain carries out its phased plan of withdrawal of its forces from that base; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?