

(d) whether it is a fact that most of these tyres became unserviceable after a run of 300 to 400 miles;

(e) whether fictitious savings were shown by manipulating figures in the Rate Contract; and

(f) what was the rate shown in the rate contract inclusive of flap and tube and the actual price paid exclusive of flap and tube?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). 138 out of 5,904 Track Hard Road tyres have been reported to have failed prematurely after completing mileage varying from 3,500 to 20,500 KMs. 95 out of 6,782 Standard Tread pattern tyres have been reported to have failed prematurely after completing mileage varying from 2,200 KMs to 26,050 KMs.

(e) No such manipulation has come to the knowledge of the Defence Ministry.

(f) As per rate contract for Standard Tread tyres with imported types stockists, the rate of 8.25 x 20-12 ply rating tyre inclusive of flap and tube was Rs. 349 and that of 7.50 x 20-10 ply rating tyre with flap and tube was Rs. 285. The types were accordingly supplied with flaps and tubes. No separate price for the tyre alone was indicated in the rate contract. The A/T placed by DGS&D for 8.25 x 20-12 ply rating Track Hard Road/Universal Track Grip pattern was for the tyre only without tube or flap and the A/T rate was Rs. 360 per tyre.

Purchase of Tyres by Defence Ministry

**363. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Officer Commanding Central Ordnance

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Depot, Kandivili (now Malad) who was responsible for purchasing and accepting the tyres from the stock mentioned in the 64th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (3rd Lok Sabha) was recently allowed to obtain his release from Military Service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if any proceedings are to be taken against any officer who has obtained his release from the Military Service, these have to be taken within six months from the date of his release;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the then Officer Commanding, Kandivili Depot in the matter of these tyre purchases so far; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Army Act, 1950, no trial by court martial of any person subject to this Act for any offence under that Act can commence after the expiration of a period of 3 years from the date of such offence and no person can be tried for an offence unless his trial commences within 6 months after he had ceased to be subject to this Act.

(c) and (d). Since he cannot be tried by court martial due to lapse of time since the transaction took place. The only other action possible is to withhold his pension wholly or partially under Regulation 3 of the Pension Regulations for the Army, Part I, 1961, and this is being processed.

Purchase of Tyres by Defence Ministry

**364. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in purchasing and accepting the tyres imported through the S.T.C. (mentioned in the 64th Report of the Public Accounts Committee—3rd Lok Sabha) misleading reports were submitted to