

(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

the Army Headquarters about the quality of these tyres;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has demanded action against the D.G.S&D; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence has taken action against the Depot Officer responsible for giving this misleading information?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. B. Bhagat):

(a) There was no specific reference to the Defence Ministry by the DGS & D. However, there was a general circular issued by the DGS&D to all indentors including Defence and a letter to C.O.D. Kandivili about the quality of the tyres.

(b) The P.A.C. has dealt with this Ministry demanding action against the DGS&D does not arise.

(c) Action against O.C. C.O.D., Malad is being processed as indicated in reply to parts (c) and (d) of Unstarred Question No. 363.

Purchase of Tyres by Defence Ministry

365. Shri Madhu Limaye: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imported tyres (mentioned in the 64th Report of the Public Accounts Committee—3rd Lok Sabha) were sent to the Forward Areas in preference to the good quality Indian made tyres in stock at the depots;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered into these affairs; and

(c) if so, the results of the enquiry?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). Imported tyres were issued for use in the forward areas also in view of the standard practice of the Army Headquarters of issuing stocks on the basis of "first manufactured first out". The decision of the Defence Ministry not to issue these tyres to forward areas

was, however, not communicated by Army Headquarters to the depot authorities. The circumstances under which this was not done are being investigated.

मूल्य समाचार

366. श्री विभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आकाशवाणी दिल्ली द्वारा प्रतिदिन प्रातःकाल अत्यावश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों के बारे में प्रसारित किये गये समाचारों की जनता ने भारी प्रालोचना की है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त प्रालोचना को दृष्टि में रखते हुए सरकार इन समाचारों का प्रसारण बन्द करने के बारे में विचार कर रही है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री के० के० शाह) : (क) आकाशवाणी से प्रसारित होने वाले बाजार-भाव बुलेटिनों की मिश्रित प्रतिक्रिया हुई है। कुछ लोग इनको जारी रखे जाने के पक्ष में हैं तो कुछ विपक्ष में।

(ख) प्राप्त होने वाली प्रतिक्रियाओं तथा किये गये सर्वे के आधार पर सरकार के अन्वय सम्बद्ध विभागों के परामर्श से इन बाजार-भाव बुलेटिनों को जारी रखने पर इनमें सुधार करने का प्रश्न विचाराधीन है।

Karnali Hydro-electric Project

367. Shri Hukam Chand Kachhvalya: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1967 on the 21st November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the report on Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal sent