

Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri S. K. Tapuriah:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports in the *Hindustan Times* of the 22nd May, 1967 to the effect that 'a senior diplomat of the Indian High Commission' is alleged to be involved in a racket to smuggle hashish into London from Delhi; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) The Ministry of External Affairs is aware of the press report appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of 22nd May, 1967 and have made some enquiries in the matter. Our enquiries have so far revealed that no diplomat senior or junior or any other official of the Indian High Commission, London, is involved in a racket to smuggle hashish into London.

(b) Indian High Commission in London has already taken up the matter with the British Government for publishing such incorrect reports in their newspapers.

Indian Nationals detained in Burma

*293. **Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 218 on the 3rd April, 1967 and state:

(a) the further progress since made in securing the release and repatriation of Indian nationals detained for alleged economic offences by the Burmese Government after the 27th May, 1964; and

(b) the special efforts made in this direction?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). The question of Indian nationals detained in Burma for alleged economic offences is being pursued by our Embassy with the Burmese authorities. Priority is being given to the examination of cases of those Indian nationals who have been in jail before 27th May, 1964 since they have been under detention for a longer period. Since the last answer given in the House on 3rd April, 1967, we have been informed of the release of two more Indian nationals belonging to the pre-27th May, 1964 category. Our Embassy is pursuing the remaining cases with the Burmese authorities.

Manufacture of War Equipment

*294. **Shri S. C. Jha:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is still not in a position to manufacture all the necessary war equipment, like tanks, war trucks, jeeps, automatic guns, fighting planes and fighting ships and has to be dependent on outside help; and

(b) if so, when India would be self-sufficient in these things?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Our aim is to have a self-sufficient production base. Defence Production is a continuously evolving process with an increasingly high degree of sophistication. We have achieved adequate self-sufficiency in small arms.

We have, however, still to depend on foreign sources for non-ferrous metals, special steels and alloys and sophisticated components in the field of electronics, aeronautics and instrumentation, and in these fields efforts are being made to achieve increasing self-sufficiency with the assistance of the developing industrial base in the country.