

Theft in Air Force Station, Pulgaon

*1281. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the seizure by police at Aligarh of large-scale arms stated to have been stolen from the Air Force Station at Pulgaon;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, with what results?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesingh-
rao Gaekwad):** (a) to (c). The Government are not aware of the seizure by Police at Aligarh of arms stated to have been stolen from the Air Force stocks at Pulgaon. Recently the loss from Air Force stocks at Pulgaon of a certain quantity of an item called "Pistol bomb aircraft", which is only a mechanical device for igniting bombs and is not a weapon or an arm, had come to notice. A Court of Inquiry has been held to investigate the circumstances connected with the loss. The proceedings of the Court of Inquiry have not yet been finalised.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Is it a fact that after this theft a few Police officers of the Criminal Investigation Department were sent to Aligarh and there they discovered pistols and ammunition worth Rs. 75,000 whereas the articles stated to be missing at Nagpur were stated to be only worth Rs. 25,000?

**Shri Fatesingh-
rao Gaekwad:** No, Sir.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Is this the first theft of its kind at Pulgaon or have there been more thefts before?

**Shri Fatesingh-
rao Gaekwad:** This is the first theft.

Delays in the presentation of Demands for Excess Grants

*1282. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to eliminate delays in presenting to the House demands for excess grants by various Ministries?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): The Demands for Excess Grants relating to any year can be presented to Parliament only after the Appropriation Accounts of that year showing the excesses are presented to Parliament along with the Comptroller and Auditor General's Audit Report thereon and the Public Accounts Committee have examined these excesses and made such recommendations as they deem fit.

The Comptroller and Auditor General has adopted certain measures which would enable him to present the complete Appropriation Accounts within about 10 or 11 months of the end of the year of the Account. Instructions have also been issued to all the Ministries that the explanatory notes on the excesses required by the Public Accounts Committee to enable them to examine these excesses should be furnished to the Committee within the time-limit prescribed by them. Immediate action will also be initiated to present the Excess Demands on receipt of the Committee's recommendation for regularising these excesses.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Do the Government accept the proposition that no extra expenditure should be incurred without the prior sanction of Parliament?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It is obviously an acceptance.

Mr. Speaker: It is in the Constitution.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If it is accepted, may I know what steps