

once, and perhaps the reply we have given was that there was no proposal before the Government to make attempts to secure all these manuscripts which are in other countries

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the different State museums are also given some amount for purchasing art treasures in their respective States?

Dr. M. M. Das: There is a scheme before Government to help the State museums and other museums to develop themselves

Shri Vajpayee: The hon Minister has just now stated that there are two committees. May I know what steps have been taken to co-ordinate the activities of these two committees?

Dr. M. M. Das: It is not necessary to co-ordinate the activities of these committees. The Art Purchase Committee for the National Museum will evaluate and purchase articles, manuscripts, paintings, etc which are more than one hundred years old, because it is for the Museum, whereas, the Purchase Committee for the National Gallery of Modern Arts will purchase more recent paintings and other art objects

Invitations to Foreign Army Chiefs

*2274 **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether the Army Chief of Staff in India has invited any foreign Chief of Staff to this country,

(b) whether Government were consulted before the issue of the invitation, and

(c) whether there are rules on the subject for guidance of officers?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) There are no rules laid down on the subject. It is, however, clearly

understood that such invitations can issue only with the approval of Government

Shri Narasimhan: Has any foreign Chief of Staff been invited to come here?

Shri Raghuramaiah: I have already answered the first part

Shri Narasimhan: May I know from which country, the name?

Mr Speaker: He wants to know who is the foreign Army Chief of Staff who has been invited

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Invitations are issued. Unless they are accepted and things finalised, it is not considered proper to disclose it. There is no secrecy about it, but it would be rather embarrassing

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: From the hon Minister's reply, do I take it that even with respect to formal invitations that are issued, before acceptance they have to take the approval of Government?

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir. These are government invitations really. The fact that a Minister, Deputy Minister or Army Chief of Staff invites is purely a matter of form, they are really invitations from this country to a particular functionary. For example, a Commander-in-Chief would not be invited by the Prime Minister but by the Army Chief of Staff. If a Deputy Minister comes, the Deputy Minister would send an invitation. That is the practice.

Shri M. E. Krishna: May I know whether the Chiefs of the Army and Air Force of India visited various countries and whether at any time they have received invitations from their counterparts there or from the Government?

Shri Krishna Menon: It has to be assumed that the practice is much the same in the other countries. The invitation would come in the

name of the counterparts, but no doubt their Governments agree to it; they meet the expenditure and make all the arrangements. The practice is the same in every country.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What was the purpose behind the invitation to a foreign Chief of Staff which has not yet been accepted?

Shri Krishna Menon: They are all friendly neighbouring countries where our people have gone in the past. They have to return those invitations; and generally it is considered good to exchange these visits.

Tractors

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*2775. { **Shri Barman:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether prototypes of small tractors have been produced by the Ordnance Factory at Calcutta;

(b) what are the different types and their utility; and

(c) when are they to be taken up for factory production?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah): (a) If the hon'ble Members have in mind the mechanical ploughs, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Prototypes of several types have been manufactured, such as notorised two-wheel ploughs, and also a three-wheeled plough incorporating a water pump.

(c) Production in Ordnance factories is undertaken only when there are sufficient firm orders justifying production.

Shri Barman: Will the hon. Minister explain who will give the orders unless this small tractor production is actually done and this experiment is successful in this country? Will the Ministry wait till some firm orders

come from anybody, so that they can produce it?

Shri Raghuramiah: This case was fully dealt with last time when a similar question arose. I explained then that what we have is only a prototype. That is what we exhibited. Later on we have been continuing various experiments on various soils. Possibly some improvements are required. We have not yet seen the last of them. All that I meant here was that unless orders come, large-scale production cannot naturally be undertaken.

Shri Barman: Though the answer is not clear, I would like to ask only one question. Now the country is eagerly expecting the success in the production of small tractors by the Defence Ordnance Factories. May I know when this experiment was taken up and how long do they think it would take for at least one of the prototypes to be finalised?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Well, these prototypes have been finalised. What the Deputy Minister is saying is that in the course of the experimentation, even a completed unit always undergoes progress; and that goes on all the time. Now we are sending it, as a first measure, to the military farms in places over which we have control. But large-scale production can take place under our rules only if there are orders. Ordnance factories are not commercial firms and they cannot produce on speculation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the prototypes have been made by some experiments and the tractors are being utilised in certain farms, are we to take it that the ordnance factories will not be in a position to actually supply them to the public on a commercial scale, because obviously no firm orders will come unless there is something for sale on a commercial basis?

Shri Krishna Menon: That is the basis on which the ordnance factories