

Aircraft Company of Canada was demonstrated at the Delhi Flying Club on Monday, the 28th December, 1959 and was witnessed by the Defence Minister; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to purchase the aircrafts?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The De Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada demonstrated their D.H.C. "Caribou" Aircraft at the Delhi Flying Club recently. The Defence Minister witnessed the demonstration.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What was the special feature of this aircraft?

Sardar Majithia: It was an STOL aircraft.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether there is any special feature about it.

Sardar Majithia: S.T.O.L. stands for Short Take Off and Landing.

Manufacture of Trucks and Tractors

+
*459. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 972 on the 17th December, 1959 and state whether any orders from Government Departments and others have been received for the manufacture of trucks and tractors in Ordnance Factories?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatehsinhrao Gaekwad): Since November, 1958, the Director General of Ordnance Factories has received an order for the manufacture of 20 tractors in the Ordnance Factories required for the Rajasthan Canal Project. No outside orders for

trucks or other vehicles have been received. Further orders for trucks for the Army have also been placed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the number of trucks so far manufactured and may I know whether it is a fact that some difficulty is being experienced to procure material like steel sheeting for the body and, if so, how this difficulty is going to be removed?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): There are some shortages of material in the country which affect us and everybody else. The Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel is giving us assistance in this matter and we hope to overcome the difficulties. But the material for parts of the truck is not available, naturally the whole production lags behind during the period of its non-availability.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know how many trucks have been produced in all.

Shri Krishna Menon: I have not got the figures, Sir. I think it works out to about 300 to 400. We have got to slow down on account of the shortage of material. But we are geared to produce up to 300 trucks per month.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a news item today, which appears in the *Times of India*, that the tractors supplied to Dandakaranya has proved to be defective? I want to know whether there is any truth in it or whether it is only vicious propaganda against our manufacture?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have seen the report this morning. It is a very sensational story, I believe there was some minor adjustment required. The Director, Ordnance Factories was there and he attended to it. I think surely the best test is an additional order for about 125 tractors which is in the process of being placed by the Ministry of Rehabilitation with the Defence Ordnance factories.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a speech delivered by Mr. Lalchand Hirachand against the manufacture of the *Shaktiman* and doing vicious propaganda against our manufacture, and if so, what steps are being taken by the Defence Ministry to counteract such propoganda?

Shri Krishna Menon: Produce better trucks.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to the manufacture of one-ton truck and whether it is a fact that they have entered into a deal with a Japanese firm to manufacture one-ton trucks?

Shri Krishna Menon: There is a manufacturing agreement between the Government and the Japanese firm for the manufacture of one-ton trucks.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the name of the concern and the terms on which the trucks are to be manufactured? I want to know the terms of these negotiations.

Shri Krishna Menon: The name of the company I believe is the Nissan Truck Company.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What about the terms of the negotiations?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is not usual to give out the details of such negotiations.

Shri Sonavane: May I know whether the Government has taken a decision to manufacture some small tractors for utilisation by those cultivators who are holding about 50 acres or so?

Shri Krishna Menon: I answered this question the other day. There is a tractor shown at the Defence Pavilion of the Exhibition. It is a developing project. So far as we know it is successful at the present stage, but the thing has to be developed. A number of Members of Parliament, the Minister for Oil and Mines, etc.,

were there the other day. But it has to be developed fully. It is not however, primarily developed as a tractor. Its main purpose is to tow an aeroplane. But it is a tractor.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that when the indent is placed with the ordnance factory, the indenting parties have to supply foreign exchange that is necessary for those components of the trucks and tractors which require foreign exchange and, if so, whether it is not an obstacle against the civilians trying to purchase these defence tractors and trucks?

Shri Krishna Menon: To the first part of the question, the answer is 'Yes'. That is, anyone who wants Defence establishments to manufacture any equipment, and if there is a foreign exchange element in it, the customer has to provide it. It cannot come out of Defence allocation.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether there is any truth in the propoganda that this *Shaktiman* has been discarded by some of the countries like England during the second world war and may I know what is the number of tractors required for the military's own use in farms and other places?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not know anything about the propoganda. I did not even know that this was used in the second world war. But this happens to be a truck used by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Shri K. N. Pandey: May I know the cost of this tractor?

Shri Krishna Menon: It depends upon what type and number, etc., that is produced. If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I lay a statement on the Table with regard to the performance the number of these tractors within a few days.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Sonavane: May I know whether, in view of the necessity of small

tractors for our cultivators in the country, the Government would consider the manufacture of small tractors in our ordnance factories?

Mr. Speaker: He has already said that one is in the exhibition. It is to be developed and all that.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know how the tractors and trucks produced in the Defence ordnance factories compare with the other trucks?

Mr. Speaker: He said he will lay a statement on the Table.

Shri Krishna Menon: I have answered this question before, but in order to make it completely clear, I shall lay a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the two Japanese experts who have been called from Japan to Dandakaranya have also failed to make these tractors workable?

Shri Krishna Menon: There are no Japanese experts in Dandakaranya. These are two young boys who are servicing the tractors.

Shri Raghunath Singh: They came from Japan.

Shri Krishna Menon: They are Japanese boys.

Mr. Speaker: Whoever comes from Japan is not an expert!

Shri Tyagi: They are not old men!

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I want to know the capacity of the production in the ordnance factories and the employment potential.

Mr. Speaker: He has already said that they are producing about 300 trucks per month.

Shri Krishna Menon: In regard to the trucks, we have geared up the machinery to produce up to 300 on one shift. But we have to produce somewhere about 1,500 trucks a year for army use only in this type. We have been held up on account of the

shortage of material which is nobody's fault and which shortage applies to the whole country.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: About the employment potential?

Mr. Speaker: How many people are employed?

Shri Krishna Menon: You have already ruled that we are not to give the figures of employment in Defence Establishments.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir. . . .

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I am not going to allow.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I am one of the sponsors, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Every hon. Member whose name finds a place against the question cannot always catch my eye. Further, I am only judging whether sufficient number of questions have been asked by way of supplementaries. Occasionally, all the Members who have sponsored the question may not get the right to put a supplementary. Next question.

Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute

*460. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 742 on the 9th December, 1959 and state the further progress since made in setting up the Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute at Nagpur?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): The Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute has started functioning in temporary accommodation in Nagpur. Field Research Centres at Delhi, Poona and Hyderabad have been established. The plans and estimates of the main building of the Institute have been prepared and are under scrutiny.