

Pay offs in Bofors Gun Deal

2937. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the enquiry into the Bofors kickbacks has been completed;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The case is still under investigation in India and abroad. The investigations required the assistance of the Swiss Authorities, for which Letters Rogatory had been sent to them. Appeals against these Letters Rogatory were filed in the Swiss Courts. Various petitions were also filed in the Indian Courts questioning the validity of the FIR and the Letters Rogatory. These petitions were decided in favour of the CBI. The Swiss Federal Courts also finally dismissed the appeals of the affected parties on 20.7.1993 and has allowed assistance to India in the investigation of the Bofors case. The decision of the Investigating Magistrate Geneva for the transmission of the bank documents is awaited. The

matter therefore is still subjudice before the Examining Magistrate in Geneva.

Electronic Voting Machines

2938. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of electronic voting machines procured by the Election Commission and the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (b) whether any decision has been taken to procure more such machines to meet the total requirements; and
- (c) whether electronic voting machines are likely to be used in elections to the State Legislative Assemblies to be held in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) 1,50,444 Electronic Voting machines have been acquired at a cost of around Rs. 75.25 crores.

(b) Decision to procure more such machines to meet the total requirements would be taken after the efficacy of the existing electronic voting machines has been tested in elections.

(c) Electronic voting machines would be used in the forthcoming elections to the extent feasible.

Procurement of Defence Items

2939. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: