

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of thefts of weapons and equipment have been reported between January, 1986 and March, 1988 from defence installations;

(b) if so, whether some of these weapons have landed up in the hands of terrorists in Punjab and elsewhere; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such thefts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) No theft of weapons and equipment from defence installations during the relevant period has so far been reported.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase of machinery from local markets by ordnance factories

4487 SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are instructions to purchase the required materials/machinery available from local market in Tamil Nadu to meet the need of the ordnance factory at Avadi,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar instructions have been given in Andhra Pradesh in respect of the Ordnance factory in Medak District;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to

(e) There are no specific instructions for purchase of materials/machinery for the ordnance factory at Avadi from the local markets in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, there are no instructions for purchase of material/machinery for the ordnance factory in Medak from local markets only in Andhra Pradesh. The purchases are made by floating tenders/inviting bids as per prescribed procedures.

Craft for replenishment of rations

4488. SHRI N. VENKATARATNAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in the construction of yard-craft by Navy and the hiring of a ferry-craft for the purpose of replenishment of rations to ships have been adversely commented by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report for the year ended 31 March, 1987;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; and

(c) the remedial action proposed in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Audit Paragraph is being examined in accordance with the procedure laid down for the processing of Audit Paras.

Foreign tours by officers of ICCR

4489. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had imposed a ban on foreign tours of officers in 1987 in the wake of the drought situation in the country; and