

*Establishment of new
Ordnance Factories*

[Shri Sham Nath]

With these few words, I would request the House to grant these supplementary demand.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): I had put a specific question that with the coming into operation of the new zone that is to emerge out of the Southern Railway and the Central Railway, because of the operational necessity and the purposes for which this new rail is constructed, it will be better served by the new zone. That point has not been replied to.

Mr. Speaker: He has given an omnibus reply that all the suggestions will be considered.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of Demand No. 2—'Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure.'"

The motion was adopted.

13.07 hrs.

MOTION RE: STATEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORDNANCE FACTORIES—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Ranga yesterday, namely:

"That this House takes note of the statement made on the 20th November, 1964 by the Minister of Defence Production on the establishment of new Ordnance Factories."

Shri Sham Lal Saraf. After his speech, the Minister has to reply, as announced yesterday.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened to some of the speeches made yesterday and I feel that out of them two things, in the main, emerge. Firstly, it is the location of the ordnance factories; secondly, the dispersal of those factories. I may add that, thirdly, the point raised was, why in spite of the six factories promised, only four have been under consideration, and fourthly, the Minister's statement—I do not know whether the Minister said it or not—that owing to the fact that foreign exchange was not available, two more factories could not be set up.

Personally, I feel that while setting up the ordnance factories, one or two things have to be kept in mind, particularly, when it is the question of dispersal of industries as such. The dispersal of such industries is decided upon after the consideration of such aspects as availability of raw material more than those considerations such as the facilities available in regard to power and so forth. In the setting up the ordnance factories, I feel the main purpose is one of protection, how they can be protected from becoming a target of an enemy attack tomorrow, in case the country is at war with any other country. Secondly, apart from considerations such as the availability of power, technical manpower, transport facilities and so on and so forth, I feel that as far as the dispersal of these factories is concerned, it has been done very well. For instance, in the past, when the Britishers were here, they were setting up over a dozen factories during their time which were mainly located in the northern region of this country such as in Punjab and on the northern frontiers so that the ammunition and other things that were produced in the ordnance factories could be available for their utilisation in the north and the Frontier Provinces.

An hon. Member: They have gone.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: They have gone. These factories have to be

located with a special perspective, or a separate perspective. My hon. friend, Shri Ranga, complained that out of these several factories, a large number has been located in one particular State. I do not want to name that State. But he meant by implication that from the State from which he comes, no factory has been located, and for that matter, perhaps the Minister may have some relation with a particular State and so on. But we must not forget one thing; the predecessor of our present Minister of Defence Production happened to be a gentleman who hailed from Mr. Ranga's State. It was he who actually was associated with laying the foundation for setting up this entire programme of opening ordinance factories, and naturally, therefore, there should not be a complaint or a grouse that a factory has not been set up in a particular State. While we discuss things like this, which is of very great national importance, dealing with the defence of the country, small and cringy matters should not come before us or are not to be taken into consideration. I should say that in what has been done, they have done it very well. Perhaps in the past there might have been one in Secunderabad or Hyderabad, but now a dispersal of these factories has to be done, more in the south—we have come right up to Tiruchirappalli—so that these factories will be in the sea coasts as well. Therefore, all this is very much welcome.

Then I come to the question about the dropping of the two factories. The Minister has not explained the reasons. But I personally feel that there are a number of considerations for that also. It is not easy nowadays to obtain the machinery and plants. It is not only a question of foreign exchange being available, but I have seen from personal experience that whatever the country may be from which you order your plants or machinery, I have yet to see a country which is very very punctual as far as delivery of those plants are concerned. Apart from that, prices

also vary from year to year. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us why these two have been dropped particularly when these two are of very great importance. These two factories were for high explosives and propellants. Personally I feel that these are of very great importance. We would like to know why these two have been dropped. I hope the hon. Minister would enlighten us on this point in his reply.

Keeping all these things in view, I do not see any force in the motion that has been moved by my hon. friend, Shri Ranga. I hope he will withdraw it after he listens to the reply of the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this debate....

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): Sir, I too want to speak on this.

Mr. Speaker: I have all respect for Dr. Aney, but yesterday it was made clear that after Shri Sham Lal Saraf the Minister would be called.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Sir, he rose yesterday also.

Shri M. R. Krishna (Peddapalli): Can't we put one or two questions?

Mr. Speaker: Even though I have to depart from the procedure, I yield to Dr. Aney.

Dr. M. S. Aney: My main point is to know why two factories have been completely omitted and only four factories are to be set up. The explanation given for not taking up these two factories, I must say, has not satisfied the Members in this part of the House. In fact, very cogent reasons have been given yesterday by

[Dr. M. S. Aney]

Shri Dandekar in his speech as to why those two factories should be taken up immediately in hand. The question as regards foreign exchange not being available and so on only indicate that there is some defect in determining the priorities. I regard this question of defence more important than the other matters for which foreign exchange is required. The fact that a few crores of foreign exchange necessary for allowing these factories to be taken in hand is not being sanctioned only indicates, if it indicates anything, that the Government itself is not regarding the question of defence as being of very great importance. It is not only of very great importance, but of immediate importance also. That is what I want to urge upon the Government.

The hon. Minister has referred to four factories being taken up. Among them, one is at Varamgaon, one at Chanda and one at Ambajhari. Ambajhari and Chanda are near my constituency. In fact, one is in my constituency itself. I would like to know from the Minister the time that he is likely to take to really make a beginning and starting with both the factories—Ambajhari and Chanda.

Lastly, I would like to say one thing. There are some long-term programmes being taken. In view of the fact that the menace is growing more and more urgent, suppose we are required to face the danger of actual warfare in the near future—these long-term schemes will not be of much use—I would like to know whether the Government have made any preparation to face the danger with all the equipment that would be necessary even if there be some air danger.

In view of these things, I think there is much force in Shri Ranga's contention that this question of defence should be more urgently looked into.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Sir, may I put one question?

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I made it clear yesterday. No body at that time told me that he wanted to speak. It is on the record.

Shri M. R. Krishna: I only want to ask one or two questions.

Mr. Speaker: Let the Minister reply now and then I will allow him to put his question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this debate for more reasons than one although there has been a lot of ill-informed criticism also in the course of the debate.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Do not be provocative at the very beginning.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Sir, as I said, there are more reasons than one why I welcome this debate. One reason is that there should be a proper appreciation of our defence production efforts, and this debate gives the Government an opportunity to explain to the House what exactly is the nature of the defence production efforts that are being carried on now. Secondly, it also gives the Government an opportunity to dispel any anxiety on the score of the dropping of two defence factories.

I may, at the outset, give some background information why this statement, which is the subject matter of the debate, has been made on the 20th November, 1964. Sir, under normal circumstances we would not have come to this House to make a statement of that kind, because it does not make any difference at all in the matter of our defence preparedness or in the matter of our strategy or in the matter of our procurement goals for defence purposes. In early 1963 the Defence Minister made a statement before this House that he was intending to set up six new factories. He repeated that statement in the course of the debate in April this year, when the Budget Demands of

this Ministry were being considered. There also this fact was reiterated. So, it was the duty of the Government that whenever any departure was made from that programme of work to take the House into confidence. All the same, I may at the very outset assure this hon. House that it does not make any change at all in the matter of our defence preparations or in the matter of our strategy or in the matter of procurement holds.

Shri Dandekar asked the question whether this decision has been a considered decision. I would say that it has been considered from all aspects, all pros and cons were weighed and this is a decision which has been taken is a deliberate one and a considered decision of the Government.

Shri Ranga: Has the National Defence Council been consulted?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I would request the hon. Member not to interrupt me. I am coming to the points raised by him. This anxiety has risen chiefly because of the decision to drop from the current defence plan these two factories. I have mentioned in that statement made on 20th November—this is the very important sentence which has been ignored by some of the Members who participated in the debate—that “as an alternative to the proposal to set up factories at Burla and Panvel the existing stock-piles of explosives and propellants should be increased suitably”, so that we do not take any risk at all in the matter of the original plan that we had in view.

Sir, these were two of the six factories that were planned after the emergency. As the House is aware we have to constantly review our plans with the reference to the availability of foreign exchange and other resources with a view to ensure their best utilisation. If it is a question of having abundant resources, a country like the United States, for example, which has a surplus of re-

sources, then it is open to that country, irrespective of priorities and irrespective of the question of foreign exchange resources or other reasons, to launch upon a programme of production. But that is not the case with us. As has been repeatedly emphasised, although we are giving due importance to the question of defence, our economic development has also to be kept in view. In the matter of procurement of assistance for putting up the defence factories as well as for other purposes when the Defence Minister had been holding discussions with friendly countries, this aspect was emphasized even by those countries which are prepared to help us in the matter of defence by saying, “it is all right that you are having necessary defence preparations, especially in the context of the new threat on the borders, but, all the same, the economic development should not be ignored; if it is ignored, it would be at the peril of defence preparedness”. So, that aspect has been kept in view.

Then, Shri Dandekar asked another question whether it has been because of our sentimental objection to taking aid from any particular country that these factories have been dropped. It is not so. If it would satisfy Shri Dandekar—I find he is not here; fortunately, his chief, Shri Ranga is present—I may say that we have taken even US expert advice in this matter whether it was advisable to set up these two factories or have stock-piling. We have been advised not only by our own people but by foreign experts too that in the matter of setting up these factories since the investment output ratio was rather high, it would be much better to build up stock-pile of the things that would be produced by these factories rather than put up these two factories. So, it is not a question of any sentimental objection to taking aid from foreign countries.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: I hope volume of production would not suffer on account of this policy.

*Establishment of new
Ordnance Factories*

13.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri A. M. Thomas: It will not. That is what I mentioned at the very outset. The dropping of these two factories does not indicate any shift at all in our defence preparedness and our plan of procurement goals.

It may be borne in mind that these two factories involve an investment of Rs. 60 crores, including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 21 crores. When we drew up the defence plan for the period 1964-69, a certain foreign exchange component was also settled. After holding discussions with friendly countries which are prepared to assist us, we had necessarily to prune that quantum to some extent. When it is a question of pruning, naturally the question of priorities arises. So, we had necessarily to drop certain factories. As has been indicated here, we have to work within the foreign exchange resources of round about Rs. 700 crores—some what below, I do not want to mention the exact figure—in the matter of setting up of factories.

These factories would necessarily take two or three years to reach completion. During that period the only course open to us is to import the necessary explosives and propellants that would be necessary for the defence.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Why could you not shorten the period?

Shri A. M. Thomas: So, the reasons given in that statement have to be viewed in that context. One reason given is, in normal peace time when we have sufficient stockpile of these explosives and propellants, these factories cannot be switched on to civilian production. That is only one of the reasons. We should not be guided only by one reason or the other. We have to take the cumulative effect of all the aspects which weighed with

the Government in taking this decision.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand): We are in an emergency.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The late Prime Minister had stated that we would have to live with the emergency for many years.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have also to take into account that in giving up these two factories we are not reducing the planned production of arms and ammunitions at all.

Shri Ranga: Question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The planned production of arms and ammunitions will go on according to the schedule that has been laid down after the onset of the emergency. All that is being done is, instead of creating additional capacity for indigenous production of explosives and propellants, we would be stockpiling our requirements. These two new factories were not intended to establish fresh lines of production. Explosives and propellants are even now being produced in our ordnance factories. We have as many as 24 ordnance factories functioning now and explosives and propellants are being produced even now. For the production of explosives we are just now going to open another factory near Bhandara. It would be my privilege to open that factory day after tomorrow. That is also intended for the production of explosives and propellants, which were intended to be produced by these two additional factories. So that, these factors should also be borne in mind when we consider this question.

I may also state that some increase in production is also contemplated in other ordnance factories, specially in the matter of production of explosives and propellants. So that any reasonable person would, I think, be satisfied with the explanation that is being given that under these circumstances the decision that we had taken

was the best decision that could be taken. It is only in that context that we have taken this decision that it would be much better to drop these factories. Considering the heavy investment that would be involved—Rs. 60 crores out of which Rs. 21 crores would be in foreign exchange—we thought it would be much better to spend round about Rs. 8 crores to import these propellants and explosives and stockpile them for our requirements.

No country, especially a developing country like ours, can plan for a war of indefinite duration. We cannot do that. The establishment of an adequate capacity to meet the war requirements for an indefinite period of time, which is a very costly goal, is seldom pursued and rarely achieved except in times of prolonged hostilities. By far the most popular and economic means of achieving self-sufficiency has been found to be by resorting to a combination of establishment of optimum level of production capacity and maintenance of adequate quantum of stockpiles. This is the only policy which any sensible country could pursue, especially a developing country like India.

It has been mentioned by Shri Ranga that there has been delay in the establishment of the other four factories. I do not wish to claim that there has not been any delays or difficulties. But I may assure the House that if there has been any delay it has been due to unavoidable reasons and whatever steps are needed to be taken have been taken.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Good words; a hackneyed phrase.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Even in the advanced countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, with all their experience during the second world war in the matter of setting up new factories, they took three to four years to set up a new factory. If that has been the experience of advanced countries like the United

States and the United Kingdom, is it a long time for a country like India to take two years to set up these factories?

Shri Ranga: What about the war-time experience?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is wartime experience that I am mentioning.

Shri Ranga: No.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Then they would have lost the war.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Since some anxiety has been expressed on that score, I would just mention to this House the progress that has been achieved in the matter of these four factories that are being set up. One of the factories, that is, at Varan-gaon, has already been set up as has already been conceded by Shri Ranga. I am very thankful to him for this small mercy. It has commenced production of components for 7.62 small arms ammunition and it is expected that during 1965 it will go into full-one-shift production. This was because the bulk of the plant and machinery was obtained from one of the surplus plants in the United States of America and was thus readily available.

The House will be interested in knowing that within six to eight months of the receipt of the plant from the United States of America our people have been able to set up this factory in Varan-gaon without any foreign assistance at all. So, this speaks volumes not only for the efficiency of our people working in these ordnance factories but also of the urgency which the Government attach to these factories. In fact, even the American experts were greatly impressed. The American Government, which gave us this plant, was greatly impressed with the speed with which this factory had been set up.

Now I will come to the next factory at Ambajhari. As the House is

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aware, the Defence Minister made a statement in this House about his mission to the United States of America in May 1964. It was only after this mission of his to the United States of America in May 1964 that we were able to reach agreement with the Government of the USA for supply of plant and machinery for this factory under the US Military Credit Sales Programme. But when they agreed that they would supply the necessary plant and machinery, they said that they would have to conduct an engineering study of this project. I think, it is quite a legitimate demand to be made. So, an engineering study has to be made by the US Consultants. We are taking all possible steps to expedite the completion of this study. In November 1964 we specially sent one of our senior officers from the Director-General's organisation to clarify our requirements to the Consultants' firms tendering for this project. We have also requested the Chief of US Military Supply Mission in India as well as our Ambassador in Washington to request the US Government to get the study completed as early as possible.

It may be of interest to the House that we are not keeping quiet pending the receipt of this engineering study. We are going ahead with regard to other civil works. Sanctions have already been issued for civil works for about Rs. 7 crores and the actual expenditure incurred on civil works till the end of October, 1964 is about Rs. 215 lakhs. A tempo has been reached with regard to the civil works and it will go on as planned.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How long will it take to complete the civil works?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Rs. 7 crores have been sanctioned out of which Rs. 2 crores have been spent.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is the period?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I might assure the House that there would not be any delay in the matter of the completion of the civil works at all by the time of receipt of the report of the engineering study as well as the receipt of the necessary plant and machinery. That is why we are going ahead in the matter of civil works even before the receipt of the report of the engineering study. All the works which could legitimately be taken up irrespective of the report of this engineering study we are taking up.

The third factory which has been mentioned is the Chanda factory which is being set up with the assistance of the United Kingdom. The House will be interested to know that sanction for the entire plant and machinery has already been issued for this factory. The U.K. War Office, who are procuring the main plant for us, as I said, have been requested to commence purchase of plant and machinery. Also, simultaneously sanctions for civil works amounting to Rs. 3.21 crores have been issued and the works are in progress.

Coming to the fourth factory about the progress of which the hon. Member, Shri Nambiar, expressed considerable concern, namely, the Tiruchirapalli factory, is planned to produce rifles, carbines and light machine guns. There also sanctions for the entire plant and machinery amounting to Rs. 7.77 crores have been issued and indents for machinery amounting to Rs. 5.20 crores have been placed on the Director General of Supplies and Disposals. It may also be borne in mind that for this factory we are not getting any assistance at all. We are spending out of our free foreign exchange resources so that whenever it is necessary we do not at all fight shy of spending our scarce foreign exchange resources for setting up any factory. There also, sanction for civil works

amounting to more than Rs. 4 crores has already been issued and the works are in progress.

Another thing which we have to bear in mind is what has been mentioned by the hon. lady Member, Shrimati Akkamma Devi. It is not proper, when we take our defence preparedness, to concentrate on these factories which have been planned after the onset of the emergency. After the onset of the emergency we have also planned for the modernisation of our ordnance factories which are as many as 24 in number. This modernisation programme has also been started before the onset of emergency too. The modernisation programme of these factories would cost us roundabout Rs. 30 crores and our idea is to spend Rs. 15 crores in the form of foreign exchange during the period of the Defence Plan, namely, 1964-69.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That will go to the next Parliament. We do not know whether we will be there then.

Shri A. M. Thomas: These modernisation proposals are all being progressed satisfactorily and in respect of the first two years the requirements of plant and machinery have already been projected. Even before the integrated five-year modernisation plan was undertaken, a number of projects for expansion of capacity, production of new lines of arms and ammunition and modernisation of the out-moded facilities were sanctioned in the various ordnance factories. In the field of ammunition production, 18 such important projects were sanctioned, 4 were sanctioned in the field of explosives, 7 in the field of weapon production and 5 in the field of general stores.

In the matter of our preparations or production of general stores, it is very important to recognise the fact that the criticism that was levelled against our unpreparedness when we had to face the Chinese aggression in 1916 (Ai) LSD-5.

the mountains in the matter of clothing and other respects has been taken care of and considerable improvements in designs, development of new designs and expansion of production have taken place in the field of general stores specially clothing and protective equipment necessary for operations in extremely cold areas at high altitudes. We now have a complete range of items in these fields which are far more efficient than we had before. As regards production of these general stores, we produce in one month what we were producing in one year earlier.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What exactly do you produce?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to general clothing what would be necessary for our mountain warfare in the matter of snow clothing, boots and other things about which criticism was levelled by Shri Kamath.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The then Prime Minister admitted that.

Shri A. M. Thomas: So, in these factories for general purpose clothing and all those things, in fact, we have produced so much that we may perhaps be surplus to our requirements so much so that surplus labour has to be absorbed in other ordnance factories.

Shri Banerjee raised that question and therefore I am making a reference to that. It is not our intention to retrench the labour. We are as far as possible trying to avoid it. It is our idea to absorb the surplus labour in other ordnance factories, but some casual labour, which would not be in a position to be shifted to other areas, perhaps would have to be retrenched.

Then, Sir, great advances have taken place and are planned in the design, performance and production capacity of the various items concerned with aerial delivery, both free

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dropping and parachute dropping, for troops in forward areas with no land lines of communications. Similar advances have taken place and are planned in other important areas, in the field of medical stores and equipment, heating, cooking and lighting, field shelters, packaging hundreds of hardware and hand-tools for the workshops, equipment for use of animal transport in the mountains, defence chemical stores and the like.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about defence science research?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In all these matters we are, more or less, self-sufficient now.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about defence science research?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I do not think the hon. Member referred to that at all. (*Interruption*).

Then, Shri Ranga referred to the question of radar stations, whether the equipment for the radar stations has been set up or is being set up, where they are set up and how many will be set up and all that. I do not think it will be desirable to disclose all this information to the House in the interest of security. But I may assure the House that we are receiving this equipment as per schedule and we are setting up these radar stations.

Another thing which we have to bear in mind in the context of the dropping of those factories, apart from the modernisation of factories and the putting up of additional capacity in the existing factories, the stock-piling and all that, is that there are some factories which have been sanctioned before the Emergency. One such factory is the Bhandara factory, that is, the Explosives Factory. That will go into production on the 19th December, 1964, as I have already indicated. This will produce some of the propellants and explosives for

which additional production was planned in the two factories which we have decided to drop. In addition, it will manufacture one or two other items.

The construction of the Ordnance Cable Factory, Chandigarh was completed on high priority and it commenced production in September, 1963. The production has already reached the planned capacity. Proposals for augmentation of the present capacity of the Cable Factory and establishment of new lines are also under examination.

Another factory which was planned before the Emergency is the Tank Factory. That has also already gone into production. Various components are being produced. As is well-known, this is a very huge project of which this country can legitimately feel proud of. I would invite the attention of Shri Ranga to this. It is not for me to advise Shri Ranga on anything. In the course of his tours that he is having—today he is found in Delhi and tomorrow in my State to which he has now developed a peculiar love and affection recently....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We represent the whole of India.

Shri A. M. Thomas: When he goes through Madras, I will suggest to him just to try to go 19 miles away from Madras and see at least one of these factories and then come to this House and criticise.

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): He will do it now.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Without seeing any of these factories, the production that is going on, the quantum of production, it is highly unfair for him to come to this hon. House and give a misleading impression to the country saying that nothing is being done. Such a criticism is quite unjustified.

The hon. Member, Shri Dandekar, wanted only a general assurance that it was a considered judgment. He does not want the details and other things. Shri Dandekar has got considerable administrative experience. Having regard to our resources, having regard to the fact that we are not in any way compromising our defence preparedness by dropping these two factories and having regard to the heavy investment that would be necessary specially in the form of foreign exchange, I would only ask Shri Dandekar, what would be the best course and the wise course for the Government to take, if he has not already lost all his background and experience in administrative service. Shri Dandekar said that he did not believe in a particular ideology.

Shri N. Dandekar (Gonda): I deliberately took the line that I was speaking on non-Party lines and I wish to reiterate that.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Although he prefaces his remark saying that he is not speaking at the political level, if one goes through his speech and reads between the lines, one would know that he was trying to create an impression in the country that nothing is being done in the matter of defence preparedness. Shri Dandekar is considered to be a well-informed person. He should have the better care when he stated that it was a wrong step. It is a legitimate question you asked, whether it was a considered judgment. Of course, I am here to answer that. It is a question of resources, drawing up of priorities and whether we are in any way compromising our defence preparedness is the main thing. If Shri Dandekar had taken pains to go through the statement, he would have been able to find that no compromise has been made in this particular case. There is an assurance before this hon. House. As an alternative, we are going to spend Rs. 8 crores on stockpiling these things which would have been produced in these two factories. When this assur-

ance was in the statement, he should not have made that uncharitable reference which he made in the course of his speech.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Similar assurances were given before the Chinese invasion in 1962. The assurance will be tested in war—God forbid.

Shri A. M. Thomas: When I talk of cheese, you talk of goose.

Despite the serious foreign exchange situation, Government is fully alive to this. In fact, 'defence and development' is the basis on which we draw our plan. We were spending a little over Rs. 300 crores before the onset of Emergency and now we are going to spend Rs. 1,000 crores per year and this inflationary tendency and other things about which the Swantantra Party is harping too much has been mainly because of our defence expenditure. But we cannot afford to neglect that. That is why we are spending more; from Rs. 300 crores we are going upto Rs. 1000 crores.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let them be well-spent and not wasted.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes. But you must recognise that.

Shri Ranga: What is the recognition for? All of us sanctioned it. It is not your grand father's property or anybody else's.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Then, hon. Member, Shri Kamath—I think he is a very studious Member...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not as studious as you are.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is a Malayalam saying—outside the House the hon. Member and I talk in Malayalam—and the purport of that saying is: After getting defeated in the market-place, you come to the house and turn against your mother. That is what exactly has hap-

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pened. A few days ago, there was a duel between the hon. Food Minister and Shri Kamath and he had sustained certain wounds because of that. After being defeated there, he catches the next chance and now turns against the Defence Minister.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is what you think. Who has been defeated?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is what has happened. Now he has turned against the Defence Minister. (*Interruption*). That is why he was saying all that—he was saying more than once—so that the next opportunity that he got was to turn against the Defence Minister and all his wrath that he had was directed against the Defence Minister.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. The Food Minister was disposed of on that day. You have your self mentioned it now. He must be relevant. I do not want to descend to his level again. The Food Minister was disposed of finally the other day. Now, let him defend the country. Let him not talk about other matters. Let him tell us how he proposes to defend the country and not let us down as Mr. Menon did. They have lost a battle with China; let them win the next. They are not ashamed of this. Let them hang down their heads in shame, and then go and face the country outside.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It would be interesting to the House to learn....

Shri Ranga: We do not hear what he is saying.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Soliloquy.

Shri Nath Pai: What about the misquoted proverb?

Shri A. M. Thomas: During the latter half of 1962-63 after occurrence of the Emergency, commitments to

the extent of approximately Rs. 6.5 crores were entered into in free foreign exchange and foreign assistance. Now, in 1963-64, this expenditure has increased to Rs. 60 crores. In the first half of 1964-65 commitments to the extent of approximately Rs. 30 crores have been entered into.

Shri S. M. Banerjee was good enough to refer to the production achievement of the ordnance factories. My hon. friend Shri D. C. Sharma had also referred to that. The production in the ordnance factories and in other production units in the Defence sector speaks for itself. In 1963-64, the value of issues made to the Services was over Rs. 110 crores against only Rs. 41 crores in 1961-62.

Shri Nath Pai: On a point of order.... Let the hon. Minister be a little galant enough to yield....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: A point of order takes precedence over a Minister's speech, however irrelevant or relevant it may be.

Shri Nath Pai: I do not know whether the hon. Minister has realised the significance of what he has said. The very distinguished predecessor of Shri Y. B. Chavan, Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, our ex-Defence Minister of repute, once told the House while declining to give us the simplest information, 'If I tell this House the number of pairs of shoes we supply, then we shall divulge a big secret to the potential enemies'. I welcome the precedent that the hon. Minister has now set up, but is he conscious of this that by telling us the number of shoes that are being supplied, he is telling the potential enemies the number of soldiers we have in the Army?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not necessarily.

Shri Ravindra Varma (Thiruvella): There are spares too. (*Interruptions*)

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the matter of Defence, Government have to carry this House as well as the whole country with them. The House would have noticed that as far as the Defence Ministry is concerned, we have given to this House whatever information it was possible for us to give.

Shri Nath Pai: Not at all.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is withheld here but published in foreign papers.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, I may submit that after some statements were made by the hon. Defence Minister in this House.....that.....

Shri Nath Pai: Which one does my hon. friend refer to? We have had so many Defence Ministers.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The former Defence Minister or the present one?

Shri A. M. Thomas:...we are now thinking about mountain divisions after the onset of the emergency, hon. Members were interested to know more about it; I think Shri Nath Pai was also included among them; I do not quite know; but I say that several Members had said that we should go to this extent that we should divulge that information to the House. So, the House is well aware of the fact that the Defence Minister was not at all holding back whatever possible information could be given to this House.

Shri Nath Pai: The present Defence Minister is not holding back.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am glad that Shri Nath Pai has admitted that.

Shri Nath Pai: We are all generous and honest.

Shri A. M. Thomas: So, it is a very unfair charge to say that the House is not being taken into confidence in this matter.

My hon. friend Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath has asked for answers to two questions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Clarify them. Do not beat about the bush.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question was couched, if I may say so, in general terms it was not with regard to the production in the ordnance factories. He had asked whether it was a fact that the defence production had doubled in the past two years, and if so, what the production was. The question was so general that it was not enough for us to collect information from the various ordnance factories, but we had to collect it from the various public sector undertakings which cater to civilian needs as well as to defence efforts, such as, for example, the Mazagaon Docks, the Garden Reach Workshop, the HAL, the Avro Factory and so on. It will necessarily take some time to collect all that information.

As far as the ordnance factories are concerned, on 7th December itself I had given the information indicating what exactly the quantum of production was. Let my hon. friend look up the papers and find out for himself the actual figures. But when he asks for the production not only in the ordnance factories but in the other public sector undertakings also, that is to, say, the total defence production, it would necessarily take some time to collect the information. And is it a sin to have asked for further time to collect the information and place it before this House?

Shri Ranga: They will take another two years for this.

Shri A. M. Thomas: To draw any adverse inference from that, I submit is quite uncharitable.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The hon. Minister has had enough time, nearly three months, from 14th September up till now, but nothing has been collected so far.

Shri A. M. Thomas: When we consider this matter, we have also to take into account not only the production in the ordnance factories but also the production in the public sector undertakings, and the progress that we have made in the various public sector undertakings in the matter of the production of aeroplanes, HF-24 and other things. I do not want to take the time of the House by referring to them. We are well on the way in the matter of the setting up of the MIG factory. I would also like to refer to the Bharat Electronics in this connection. My hon. friend Shri Ranga referred to the radar equipment and other things. It would be of interest to him to learn that the Bharat Electronics has been producing a wide range of wireless and electronic equipment required by the three services. In fact, the value of its production of defence equipment increased from Rs. 74 lakhs in 1962-63 to about Rs. 460 lakhs in 1963-64 and is expected to be about Rs. 6 crores this year. So, from Rs. 74 lakhs it has gone up to about Rs. 6 crores. This is not an insignificant achievement. I may also tell the House that the total production of defence equipment in all the public sector undertakings under the Department of Defence Production—not the ordnance factories; there it comes to Rs. 120 crores; but as far as the others are concerned—comes to Rs. 21.38 crores whereas it was only a year back only Rs. 16 crores. So, there is considerable improvement in this matter of production of defence equipment in the public sector undertakings. We have to take all these into consideration, the maximum production possible in the ordnance factories already there, the coming into production of factories which have been planned before the onset of the emergency and the preparations that are being made to set up new factories which we plan, when we consider this question.

As I have mentioned earlier, the production figures speak for themselves. This is not to say that we are

not alive to the danger and the difficulties that confront us. I would, however, like to assure the House that there is no intention to relent our efforts to establish a sound production base. It is a very uncharitable remark to say that we have again relapsed into complacency. Apart from that, the facts that I have narrated will convince any dispassionate observer that the steps that have been taken have been taken on a war footing and with the highest sense of urgency.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: What about civil defence? Where are the civil defence preparations if we are on a war footing?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are now talking about the production in the ordnance factories. When my hon. friend is satisfied on one question, he raises another question.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: The hon. Minister said that the preparations were being made on a war footing. That was why I wanted to know about civil defence also.

Shri A. M. Thomas: As regards the Research and Development organisation, civil defence etc., we could have the discussion on them on another date. Now, we are on the question of the production in the ordnance factories.

Much time was taken by my hon. friend Shri Ranga in making mention of our old mistakes and other things. It is a well known fact that we were trying to be a peaceful and peace-loving State, and our country was suddenly called upon to be in a state of defence preparedness. So, it will necessarily take some time, and it is not easy to effect a radical changeover. As the House is aware, after Independence, while the need to produce defence requirements within the country was felt and some efforts

were made in that direction, the progress was necessarily restricted. The obvious reasons were that it was hoped that with the country's policy of non-aggression and peace, the development of armament industry on any large scale may not be necessary. The requirements of economic development had to be naturally given the first priority and difficulties were often encountered in securing on reasonable terms technical know-how and other assistance required to establish an armament industry. In a number of fields, we had to enter completely new fields. The technical know-how and the administrative capacity were lacking. We have partly overcome these difficulties. And the way in which our workers have made their contribution—whatever my hon. friend Shri Ranga may say about the persuasion of these workers—is such that I must pay my tribute to the thousands of employees in the various ordnance factories, who as has been remarked by my hon. friend Shri S. M. Banerjee have risen as one man in the face of this emergency and shown their mettle and increased the production three-fold and four-fold in the various ordnance factories. It is up to this House.....

Shri Ranga: Did I question that? Did I question their patriotism? Did I question their having made the best possible effort?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can say all this when he replies.

Shri Ranga: I shall reply all right but here and now, I must correct the statement that the hon. Minister has made. He is unfair not only to me but also to himself as Minister, because as a Minister he has got to be exact in his references to whatever I have said here in the House.

I only warned Government about certain leaders in certain areas. It would be foolish for them not to take that warning I did not say anything about the workers at all. Kindly

read my speech and see what I had said.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My hon. friend talked about labour, and that was what he said.....

Shri Ranga: It would be better if the hon. Minister would withdraw those remarks. He should not say that I had made those remarks.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Whatever it may be, it is my duty to appreciate the efforts of the thousands of employees of the ordnance factories who have risen to the occasion.....

Shri Ranga: That need not be a monopoly on the other side. My hon. friend need not impute motives.

Shri A. M. Thomas:....in the matter of defence efforts.

I do not think I need take more time of this hon. House. I again repeat Government's stand, that the Government has not at all compromised in any way with the defence preparedness or the original programme of its goals for procurement.

14 hrs.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of clarification, I am sure you will agree that the Defence Minister whether it be the senior or the junior Minister's business, is to tell the House and the country how Government propose to defend the country against declared enemies like China, and not to take shelter behind the Food Minister's *lungi* or *mundu*...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not necessary to refer to that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The other day you did not rule it out of order—you let it go on record, I am sorry to say that he brought in irrelevant matters, which it was none of his business to do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think this is a clarification he wanted.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I raised the point yesterday that the senior Defence Minister, at a luncheon in London, where I was also present, referred to the fact that the Chinese air force is today capable of 500 sorties a day on the Himalayan border. In view of that, I asked what preparations we are making, what is the progress with regard to HF-24 and MIG-21? Let them answer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not another speech.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is not another speech. I am seeking clarification on a point I raised yesterday which he has not answered in his reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought it was your explanation.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, no. I referred yesterday to what the Defence Minister had said at a function in London, when I was also present, and asked what are the preparations Government are making to meet the mounting Chinese threat.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Defence Minister himself made a statement with regard to this matter of how many squadrons we are going to have, what are the arrangements that have been made, how we are going to have certain number of MIG planes from the USSR to equip our squadrons. All these matters have been referred to. So I do not think it necessary to repeat those things.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : जो प्वायंट्स रह गए हैं, सिग्नेटरीज को उन के बारे में क्लैरिफिकेशन हासिल करने का मौका मिलना चाहिए। इसी आदरणीय सदन में यह वादा किया गया था कि हम छः आर्डिनेंस फ़ैक्टरीज खोलने जा रहे हैं, लेकिन अब सरकार ब्यान देती है कि मुश्किल से चार फ़ैक्टरीज कायम हो सकेंगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दो फ़ैक्टरीज किस लिए कम हो गई हैं—

क्या रुपये की कमी है या कोई और कारण है।

Shri M. R. Krishna: Is it not a fact that before Government decided to set up these six factories, US consultants and other experts and examined all the existing factories which were to be modernized and only after that recommended to Government that they should set up these six factories? Is it also true that they laid emphasis on the explosives factory? If Government at that time had accepted and promised this House that they would set up six factories, what has prompted them to immediately abandon two factories in four months' time?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the while, he has been explaining the same thing.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Did any other expert committee, like the US expert committee, go into this matter?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He might answer Shri Yashpal Singh's question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It was in Hindi. So I could not follow.

An hon. Member: It is the same as Shri M. R. Krishna's question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to the modernisation of ordnance factories, more than one team of experts has gone into it. I may assure the hon. Member that the dropping of these two factories has also been decided on the US expert team's advice.

Shri Nath Pai: A very small question. I know that the hon. Minister has tried to the best of his ability to allay the anxiety of the House, though not with very conspicuous success. One example of it is that he has tried to tabulate the achievements of his Ministry, the production side of it, in terms of rupees—which is a very tragic thing. May I draw his attention to this simple fact, that he has

tried to persuade the House that our production requirements in terms of electronic goods is very satisfactory because it has gone from so many lakhs to some crores? Has his attention been drawn to the report prepared by Dr. Bhabha's Committee on electronics where they point out the tragic lacuna we are suffering from as to defence production requirements in electronics where we are made to buy our requirements from abroad, whereas our production is not even upto 10 per cent? Is he aware of it or is he going to tell us that from so many lakhs we have come to some crores? This was the attitude they had earlier adopted, that they did not count in terms of the potential danger and then measure the preparedness but they calculated in terms of rupees spent or of rupees acquired.

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to electronic equipment, we realise that it is very important. It will take some time for us to produce indigenously all our requirements of electronic equipment. That is why we are importing our major requirement of electronic equipment from foreign countries by spending valuable foreign exchange.

I made a mention of Bharat Electronics and said that in the last two years we have proceeded in such a way as to produce our maximum. It was only to indicate that, that I mentioned figures of production in Bharat Electronics, not that the electronic equipment produced is enough for our requirements. To meet our requirements of these equipments, we are importing from outside.

Shri Ranga: I wish to thank all hon. Members, including the Minister, for having taken part in this debate and made their useful contributions.

Anyone who really wishes to judge in an impartial manner from the trend of the discussion in this House would come to one and only one conclusion, that this House is not satisfied with things as they are on the defence pro-

duction front, and it would like Government to be more alert and more conscious of their responsibilities towards this emergency and to be more honest with themselves and with the National Defence Council and with this House by making it clear that their foreign policy, their defence policy, the policy of allocating priorities in regard to various things that are to be imported into our country, has not been a success, if it has not been a failure.

My hon. friend, the Minister of Defence Production, was at considerable pains to impress upon the House the consideration that after all, they had only two years, they could not be expected to achieve wonders and they should be given indulgence for the long time that has been lost so far, more than two years, and for that failure also. I wish to assure this House that neither this Minister nor his predecessors nor the present Defence Minister nor any of us on our side, fortunately or unfortunately, happen to be military men and can claim to have any more expertise than any ordinary member of this House except for this that one has been in touch with what is happening for a longer period than the other. Taking it on that basis, that they are laymen as we are, we have to come to our judgment on the facts placed before us; we will have to see whether this Government has achieved any success at all in this direction.

Who asked them to come to this House with so much fanfare and announce, in order to allay the anxiety and feelings of the country as a whole and of Parliament, that they were going to recruit, train, equip and send to the front six mountain divisions? They did it. These six new factories—they did it. As my hon. friend, Shri Dandekar, said yesterday, did they not at that time have the benefit of all their experts here as well as outside, in the west as well as east, and was it not after all that consideration that

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they had at that time and the consultations they must have had with themselves as well as other friends, that they came to those two conclusions and assured the country that they were going to do these things? They did not say then, "We are going to modernise the existing ordnance factories, we are going to expand the capacity, and then we shall see whether we will need these six new factories." They did not say so. It was taken for granted in the House, the House understood it that way, that modernisation of the existing factories would go on apace, their capacity would be increased, imports would be brought in and priority would be given for exchange needs of the existing factories and their plans, as well as for these six new ordnance factories. All this was given on the floor of the House to the country as well as Parliament as an assurance of the awareness of this Government of its duty to defend this country properly.

I want to reiterate the statement made by my hon. friend Shri Dandekar not only on my own behalf and on his behalf, but also on behalf of every one of the Opposition Members who had taken part in the debate yesterday, that we tried our best to approach this problem, so far as production was concerned, from an entirely non-partisan and all-party, patriotic attitude. It is as patriots that I want my hon. friends from that side to look at it, and we also look at it that way.

My hon. friend wants us to believe that they have done all that they possibly could under the difficulties they have had to face, the difficulty coming from Finance, the difficulty of lack of foreign exchange, the difficulty coming from other Ministries and so on, and therefore, he wanted us to be satisfied with their failure. Was it not he himself who said just now that when it came to clothing and other equipment that was needed by our

troops, they raised the production twelve-fold? He said so. If it was possible to do that for this very same Government with the very same ordnance factories that they have got, is it unreasonable for us as laymen to assume that it should have been possible for them to achieve similar progress in other sectors of defence production also, if only they had the will to do it, if only they put their shoulders to it, if only they had been actually sincere to the professions they had made before the whole country? That is how I want to look at it. It was not my plan or my party's plan, or the Opposition plan; it was their plan. Why did they go back upon their own plan?

They say that we should be satisfied that there would be no danger at all. As Shri Kamath just now interrupted, the former Defence Minister also wanted us to believe that way. He brought down the defence estimates, and he wanted the House to congratulate him because he was asking the country to spare much less than what had been allotted in the previous years. We trusted him because we had to trust him, because we have to assume that they are in the know of all the facts, that they are as good patriots as any one of us, and more than that, because they have got the assistance and advice of all their great experts. And the country knows the results through its bitter experience. How does my hon. friend, the Defence Minister, want me to continue to have confidence, repose confidence, in him in the same way as we tried to do in the very beginning when he came from Sahyadri, if this is the performance in the light of their own demands, of their own professions, of their own plans? That is how I look at it. That is why I said advisedly that if they do not take care and do not go into this with all honesty, not only honesty but also all the energy that they can command and all the resources also,—I am coming to that presently—if they fail to do it,

the country would have to send them out in the same way as the former Defence Minister was sent but.

Now, I come to foreign exchange. My hon. friend made much of it. Why did we sanction so much money, Rs. 700 crores, last year? Did we not then assume that within that Rs. 700 crores, whatever foreign exchange would be needed would have been included, would be set apart, that first priority would be given by the Defence Ministry to it? My hon. friend is talking about development and defence; two D's can be used in various other ways—you know Goethe's writing—and therefore, I do not want that kind of fate to overtake our country. Who has stood in the way of this foreign exchange? He says we are going to build this thing at Chanda or Tiruchirapalli with our own resources, with the free foreign exchange that had already been placed at their disposal. What happens to the rest of the foreign exchange that we would need for our defence forces, for our ordnance factories, for equipment and all the rest for which we allotted money when we passed the Budget? Are we to understand then that there is no such reservation at all? Are we to understand that from day to day Defence has got to compete with all other demands which the various Ministries would be making at the doors of the Finance Minister for foreign exchange? If this is so, let us be told about it.

We have taken it for granted that the very first priority would be given for foreign exchange so far as defence needs are concerned, and now we are told there is some difficulty. The ball is at the other court, it is for my friends to take the country into confidence in regard to the relations between themselves and the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission, whether they are having all the foreign exchange that they have asked for that they intended to ask for when they came here for their Defence Bud-

get last time, at the time of the Budget sanction.

Having said that, let me also take up the other point made, unfortunately, by one of my hon. friends here, that there is an atmosphere of alarm. We are not alarmists. I am sure my hon. friend also would not like to be an alarmist. But we do know that there is an emergency. If any one can be accused of alarmism, of raising an alarm,—and I do not think he can be accused—it is the Defence Minister alone. I have already said guardedly that he cannot be accused of that. Again and again, as I said yesterday, he warned the country as well as the rest of the world about the Chinese forces being mounted there on the Himalayan heights. And he also fears, and rightly so, that any moment they think is convenient, they may spring on us. Is warning the country like that alarmism? Can anybody be accused of that? We are not alarmists, but here is the emergency and I do not know how long my hon. friend is going to maintain the emergency and at the same time behave as if there is no emergency at all.

Not to speak of all these conventional arms, there is that bomb coming from that end. They wanted to hide themselves behind the bush of their own self-confidence for too long a time, even while some of the American experts were warning the world as a whole that the Chinese were getting ready with their bomb. They were saying: no, no, no fear at all. Then, it did come. Then they said it was only a small thing. Now, they say they are not afraid. If they are not afraid, I am sure the rest of the world is afraid. But now the Prime Minister is also coming to realise its importance, and therefore, he has sent his friends all round the world, and has sent messages also to all the countries in order to impress upon them the need to raise the slogan "down with the atom bomb" whosoever may be the owner of it, whosoever may be the producer of it or is capable of it. Very well, now it is there with the

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Chinese. It is subject to the presence of that, that we have to think of armament development. I am not here and now prepared to say that Government should go in for the manufacture of the atom bomb or anything like that. We are opposed to that. My hon. friend Shri Masani has presented his careful, well-reasoned thesis before this House. It is for the House to consider it for whatever it is worth. But, what we want the Government to realise is that, since the Chinese are in possession of that deadly weapon, and various other things that can lead to the manufacture of that, their defence capacity, their capacity for offence must be so much more even in regard to the realm of conventional arms, and so we must be prepared to match our defences as against that. Every one knows that we can only be on the defensive. We were beaten so badly. If we were to say that we are going to do this and that against the Chinese after having been beaten, we must first of all establish our credentials so far as our Defence Forces are concerned *vis-a-vis* the Chinese. So, we are on the defensive. I fear that Government is not ready, is also not getting the country ready. I thought he was going to give a reply to a point raised by me yesterday; he did not. I shall remind him. They constitute a national defence council which we consider to be unrepresentative and unsatisfactorily constituted. Was even that national defence council consulted? Did it agree to the decision—wrong decision according to us—to drop the two factories? And two divisions?.....

Shri A. M. Thomas: Dropping two divisions? The hon. Minister of Defence last time said that we were going to increase the mountain divisions to 10.

Shri Ranga: It was said that we did not have foreign exchange. Just as we are depending on food imports from foreign countries, we are going to depend even for those small things on

the foreigners and that is why we are not going to build up these factories. I want to remind them that we did not ask for such and such factory to be established here. They have themselves in their wisdom stated that these factories were necessary. Now they drop it. They want us to believe them now. How on earth is it possible for any sensible men to accept their word? Their word does not inspire confidence. Let them realise that if they really want the country to continue to repose its confidence in them and in their party, they must prepare the country for effective defence and they have got to manage their affairs much better than they have done.

Lastly, here is my warning. They may get electoral victories and they are certainly in large numbers here. So was Neville Chamberlain. Please remember that and the way in which he had had to go at the bidding of the nation; this Government also would have to make away for another Government, if they do not turn a new leaf and do not give up the kind of things that they have done so far.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is:.....

Shri Nath Pai: In a motion like that, who will say 'no' or reject it?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I do not think there is anything for the House to decide; there is no positive motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the House takes note of it and I have to put it to the House. The question is:

"That this House takes note of the statement made on the 20th November, 1964 by the Minister of Defence Production on the establishment of new Ordnance Factories."

The motion was adopted.