

tries concerned. Along with the licence application, we get to know what are the things to be imported, what is the amount of foreign exchange that is to be found, etc. All these are tried to be cleared simultaneously so that the long process which was needed earlier is obviated.

Automobile Industry

+

- *122. { Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 54 on the 29th May, 1964 and state:

(a) the response from automobile industry for pooling capacity for efficient and cheap production; and

(b) the Government's reaction thereto and plan in this connection?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) and (b). The proposals of the three manufacturers of passenger cars in response to certain suggestions for rationalisation and economic production have been received and are, at present, under examination. *Prima facie*, their response is not very encouraging.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: We would like the Minister to tell us as to what has happened to the small car project? Has it been finally abandoned or it will continue to be revived seasonally and sporadically?

Shri T. N. Singh: The question here related to the three car manufacturers and a particular enquiry relating to them. That has been dealt with in the answer.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Sir, you will recall that while Mr. Subramaniam answered this question earlier he had clearly allowed it to be related to the small car project because, after all, pooling of all the existing capacities in the country was for the purpose of

creating a single car for being used in the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker: He says that he could not answer; he may put the second question.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: How long would it take to finalise consideration of the various proposals regarding the pooling of the existing capacity for automobile manufacture in this country and may I know whether it is proposed to extend any further the import licence facilities in respect of the credit that has been extended by foreign firms to certain manufacturing firms in this country?

Shri T. N. Singh: In regard to the finalisation of the recommendations of the various concerns, I may take the House into confidence fully. Two alternatives were placed before the manufacturers. One was that the existing car manufacturing facilities may be integrated into a common unit to produce one, or at the most two makes, of cars making rational use of the existing facilities. The response to this was very discouraging and none of them seemed to be prepared for this. The second alternative was one of the existing manufactures may be selected on a competitive basis with reference to certain factors. The answer in regard to this was also unsatisfactory. As a matter of fact each one of them tried to put up another car, a fourth car as a substitute over that. Therefore, the answers were on the whole very unsatisfactory.....

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: This is the answer to my first question.

Shri T. N. Singh: I may add, Sir, that since I came into this charge I have been trying to study this problem in some detail and I assure the House that as soon as I am in a position to do so, I will make a full statement.

Shri P. K. Deo: So long as the wretched ambassador cars could be sold at Rs. 18,000 it is obvious that the response... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Has the quality of the car been improved by the use of this adjective?

Shri P. K. Deo: It may improve, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He might put the question.

Shri P. K. Deo: When it is obvious that the response would be very poor to the proposal for pooling the resources for efficient production, etc., may I know what are the specific proposals of the Government to enforce that their resources are pooled together so that a cheaper and better car is produced in the country for the use of the consumers?

Shri T. N. Singh: We are considering just these measures which we should take under the circumstances. As a matter of fact, the present rate of production and the quantity that each unit produces are entirely uneconomic. We are seized of this problem and I can assure the House that we shall be taking the necessary steps as early as possible. (*Interruptions*).

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: He must have noted the feelings of the House in regard to this matter and seen how eager they are.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: The assurance is very old; made long ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be silence.

Shri P. C. Borooah: The former Minister in charge of this subject stated in the House sometime ago that the price was expected to be reduced. May I know whether the Government have lost all hope of reducing the car price, since the hon. Minister the other day, in an informal talk with newsmen, stated that the reduction of price will not be possible? May I know whether any study has been made in that regard and has it been concluded finally that there is no possibility of reduction in prices?

1014 (A) LSD—2.

Shri T. N. Singh: I am fully conscious of this complaint, and I think there may be some justification also. We shall examine it; the prices of these cars are rather very high and they need examination. But it must be understood that it is the private sector manufacturing agency. Secondly, many of these prices are settled according to certain formulas which I may tell the House is on cost plus basis. I think the whole thing needs examination and I shall endeavour to examine that problem.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: In spite of sufficient foreign exchange having been allowed to the three car manufacturers, may I know what are the main reasons which have brought the production from 22,000 down to 15,000 in the year 1962-63?

Shri T. N. Singh: The production of these cars in 1963 was 15,000; it is true. That is probably due to shortage of foreign exchange.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: My question was, in spite of sufficient foreign exchange being allowed to the three car manufacturers during that year, what are the main reasons which have resulted in the fall in production.

Shri T. N. Singh: I will have to examine that question and then I will be able to answer.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a unit in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory (which produces planes for us), which produces a baby car costing just Rs. 5,000, which is better than any other car put in the Indian market and whether the Government has examined that proposal? Secondly, is the Government aware that .37 million dollar credit has been given by the U.S. Government to the three car manufacturers in India and that by the end of the third Five Year Plan we shall have 100,000 automobiles? Is the Government going to be blackmailed by these three car

manufacturers so that the consumers will suffer, or, do the Government still have a whip-hand against the manufacturers or not?

Shri T. N. Singh: I want to say very categorically that the Government have no intention to be blackmailed by anybody.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: You have been up till now. *(Interruption).*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri T. N. Singh: This whole problem has become very complicated as a result of more than one make being allowed to be manufactured in this country.

Shri Daji: Abolish all the three firms in the private sector and finish with it. *(Interruption).*

Shri T. N. Singh: I think that is a suggestion which should be considered and I am prepared to consider it. *(Interruption).*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. So many Members should not talk simultaneously and put questions. I can very well understand the excitement.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: How to express the feelings of the public?

Mr. Speaker: Each one as he gets his turn might voice the feelings of the public so that the chance may be given to so many.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I am glad to know that the Minister is examining many questions. Will he also examine why the automobile industry in this country cannot be taken over by the public sector?

Shri T. N. Singh: Certainly.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Since Minister after Minister has given repeated assurances and made empty and half promises, may I know how long the Government will wait for a

warm and encouraging response from these three manufacturers, or will Government go ahead straight for another project? What is the intention of the Government?

Shri T. N. Singh: It is rather unfortunate to say that any Minister has given any false assurance. I wish that had been avoided.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Being a Member of the Planning Commission and being a Minister in Parliament are different. He should not give us sermons . . . *(Interruptions).*

Shri Thirumala Rao: Since the Minister is new to the department, Ministers who previously dealt with the subject may be asked to reply.

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Shri Dasappa): At the end of all this, may I know what question is on the floor? *(Interruptions).*

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Sir, you have allowed only one question of mine and the Minister should know that.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिये ।

श्री बागड़ी : मैं व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ । अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस बात के ऊपर फँसला दें कि बार बार सवाल पूछने के बाद और आपके यों निर्देश देने के बाद कि सवाल का जवाब मंत्री महोदय जब हाउस टंडा हो जाय तब दें, इसके बावजूद भी मंत्री महोदय यह कहें कि सवाल का मुझे पता नहीं, यह हाउस की उनके द्वारा तौहीन नहीं तो और क्या है ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय (देवास) : वह यहां बेंटे हुए घर का विचार कर रहे हैं ।

Shri S. M. Bamerjee: On a point of order, Sir. A particular question—original question—has been asked and

the supplementaries have followed from it. Fortunately or unfortunately Mr. Dasappa is the Cabinet Minister in charge of it. After hearing all the supplementaries and all the answers, he puts a question which is like somebody asking "नेत्र किन की मां थी"

after hearing all the Ramayana.

Mr. Speaker: Should I give any answer to that?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether the Minister is justified in saying like that. He has ridiculed the House.

Mr. Speaker: I will look into the rules if I can find Sita there. It should not be made a fun of in the House.

So far as I could gather, I do not want to say anything except that it was really unfortunate that the Minister should say such words....

Shri Nath Pal: Flippancy.

Mr. Speaker: . . . which could lead to another interpretation. That was not proper because we had discussed it for a long time.

Shri Dasappa: I did not know to which question . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: After so many supplementaries had been put, the Minister ought to have asked to which particular supplementary he had to give a reply.

Shri Dasappa: I only meant the supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: But the words that he used did not convey the idea that he wanted to know which supplementary he had to answer on that particular occasion because so many supplementaries had been put simultaneously, though that might have been his intention.

Shri Dasappa: That was my intention.

Mr. Speaker: But his query "what is the question" gave the impression to the House as if he did not know what question we were dealing with though we had spent so much time on it.

Shri Dasappa: May I express my regret if I had created the impression that I was not aware of the question holding the field here? Because a number of friends were getting up and asking supplementaries, I did not know to which particular supplementary I had to give an answer. That created the difficulty.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Sir, you allowed only one supplementary; nothing more. Where were the other supplementaries?

Shri Dasappa: If it is Shri Azad's supplementary that is holding the field, my friend will answer it. But there were so many questions put by other members. Therefore, I asked which of the supplementaries was holding the field.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bokaro Steel Plant

Shri Vishram Prasad:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Saradish Roy:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda:

*123. Shri Hem Raj: