

repeatedly several times before the House, and the percentages are fairly well known now. The Hindustan Ambassador has reached 71 per cent., Fiat has reached a percentage of about 58, and Standard about 37 per cent. Efforts are being made, and according to the phased programme, by the end of the Second Plan period, all of them are likely to reach 80 to 85 per cent., which is the maximum indigenous content of automobiles practically.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether the Premier Automobiles have written to Government that if they are allowed to produce small cars, they could sell them in the market at Rs. 8,500?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They have never written like that, and there is nothing to prevent anybody from increasing more production. As a matter of fact, this increased production, which as far as Fiat is concerned is twice the previous year's level, is due to our giving them more assistance. And the more sheet metal and pressing plant, for which they are now enquiring about, and other things are produced, the greater will be the production.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if any special licence has been given to Premier Automobiles to manufacture 200 units of Plymouth cars and, if so, what would be the indigenous component of these cars?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As the House is aware, we discontinued the manufacture of big cars, because it is neither paying in capital cost nor in manufacturing cost. This was for the Department of Tourism, where to attract foreign tourists and to provide them with long distance transport, as a special case, 200 big cars were allowed to be imported, and assembled more or less. There is no question of saving any foreign exchange on any components.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not true that all these three car manufacturers and also the jeep manufac-

turers are being pampered at the cost of the consumer, and the car production is not sufficient and all the parts are not manufactured here; and the jeep manufacturer alone was allowed a large amount of foreign exchange for import of parts?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have dealt with it. All of them are progressing according to the schedule, and we hope that most of them by the end of the Second Plan period will reach the normal self-sufficiency possible in an automobile industry.

Spanish Press Delegation

*1364. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spanish Press delegation has recently visited India; and

(b) if so, what for and on whose invitation?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes.

(b) A delegation consisting of 4 leading Spanish journalists was invited by the Government of India to visit this country to enable them to have a first-hand knowledge of our development projects and educational and cultural activities.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: What is the present relationship of our country with Spain?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Very friendly, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva: On a former occasion, when a foreign Editors' delegation came here, I had put a question that these delegations are taken in a kind of way outside and none of them is allowed to meet the Journalist-Members from all parts of this House, and the hon. the Speaker was good enough to say that the Ministry would take note of this suggestion and that something would be done. May I know why, when the Spanish Press delegation came, especially in view of

the Goa question, they were not permitted to meet a few journalist Members of this House?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Usually programmes of these foreign visitors, journalists or other, are drawn up in consultation with their own Ambassadors here. In fact, largely their own Ambassadors' wishes are followed in this matter. There is no question of their not being allowed to see anybody. They come for ten or twelve days to go all over India. They are a bit rushed.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the hon. Speaker will set up a committee to find out the real journalists and the prospective journalists of this House?

An Hon. Member: With Shri D. C. Sharma as the Chairman!

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Sindri Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd.

*1365. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sindri Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. who have been appointed as technical consultants for the proposed Fertilisers Factory at Kothagudium, Andhra Pradesh, have undertaken to execute any work of the factory;

(b) if so, the nature and value of the contract;

(c) whether any remuneration is being paid to the technical consultants; and

(d) if so, what is the amount?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is still under negotiation.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether even the nature of the con-

tract with regard to the technical consultants is also under negotiation still?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. The nature is that Sindri Fertilisers will work as technical consultants of the Andhra Government. Now the question is only of the terms and conditions, and being a matter between two Governments it is not a hold-up at all.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: They are entrusted with certain preliminary work in connection with this fertiliser work. Are they doing it without any remuneration being paid to them?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As a matter of fact, the Andhra Government have taken several steps in order to clear up all the preliminary data and collection of statistics. That work is going on. On the other side, Sindri is also taking up about the nature of the project and what technical know-how should be used. The work is more or less proceeding according to schedule.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if any foreign exchange has been asked for by the Andhra Government for this factory during the current year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the present, they have not asked for, but naturally this will entail a large amount of foreign exchange, and it will have to be granted as the scheme has been accepted in principle, but they will have to negotiate suitable credits.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: They propose to call for global tenders. May I know whether that will have to be routed through this Ministry or they can do it independently?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Actually, all these details have not yet been discussed. Just as we have arranged to manufacture almost Rs. 8½ crores worth of plant in the country itself for the Rourkela factory, we have to manufacture for this factory also. It might also be possible to manufacture locally a much larger portion of the