

directly to the public. This is for the first time we are disinvesting from our public sector units. And that is why, there is a little risk. If we do not proceed very carefully, there may be either over-pricing or under-pricing. That is why, we have gone through mutual funds and financial institutions.

So far as the new disinvestment is concerned, the hon. Member will be glad to know that we have appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Shri V. Krishna Murthy, Member, Planning Commission, to go into the details and to suggest modalities as to how we should go for further disinvestment... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is it, Mr. Acharia? It is not the way.

SHRI P.K. THUNGOON: We have to be cautious and that is one of the reasons. Otherwise there would have been problems in the Stock Exchange and the capital market would have crashed. There would have been a crisis and there would have been imbalance in the whole of capital market. That is why, being the Government, we have to proceed very carefully so that the capital market is also taken care of and at the same time, our purpose is also met. Also, we did not have much time and that is why, we have to go through the mutual funds and financial institutions.

Battery-operated Cars

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*392. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

(a) whether the Government have approved the manufacture of battery-operated cars by the Addy Current Controls (India) Limited of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost and capacity of the project; and

(d) the time by which the production of such cars is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). M/s Eddy Current Controls (India) Ltd. are being permitted to manufacture 'Battery Operated Electric Car' at Chalakudy, Mukundpuram (Kerala), for a capacity of 6000 per annum. The estimated cost of the project is expected to be around Rs. 6 crores. The Company expects to start production within six months of approval.

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: We know that in our country, we are not doing adequate research in battery operated cars. Is the Government willing to take up research work to produce battery operated cars? If it needs huge outlay, is the Government willing to give some subsidy for this huge outlay?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Research is already going on in the Department of Science and Technology with regard to non-conventional energy-used cars. This is one such car, which has been designed by an Indian, with our own R & D and with full indigenous technology. Government is giving all possible assistance to R & D for non-conventional energy sources, for battery operated cars and for cars operated with similar non-conventional energy sources.

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Sir, I asked a specific question. Is the Government willing to give subsidy to this Addy Current Controls. This is a Kerala - based Company and the hon. Minister is from Kerala. I think he should consider it. Is he willing to give subsidy and bear all development cost for this car?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The Company has developed a technology without our subsidy and they are now going into production. I do not think there is any need to give any subsidy for this technology.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, what is that is the approximate cost of this new car? What is the cost of production? And at what rate is it likely to be sold according the project report which the Government has seen?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: According to the project report, the cost of the new car at ex-factory prices is estimated at Rs. 1.75 lakh and they are to produce 6,000 cars per annum.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What is the sale price?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is the sale price, including the excise duty as it exists today.

SHRI RAM NAIK: What is the cost of production and what is the sale price? These are two different things.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have stated that the sale price is Rs. 1.75 lakh. Cost of production would be minus excise duties and other related things.

MR. SPEAKER: The cost of production may be with the Company. He will find it out.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of a proposal from Vijaywada Autonagar, a pioneer in the automobile field - Raghavayya has also submitted a proposal for the battery operated car, which model was earlier run by the then Prime Minister. In view of the steep rise in the price of fuel and petrol, will the Government consider that proposal and give permission to produce battery operated car?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think it would be fair to ask the Minister to reply such questions on the floor of the House. That will not be fair. Otherwise, people will ask for the licences and permission on the floor of the House. You can talk to him later.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal from Tamil Nadu to manufacture battery operated car; if so, what is the status of this proposal whether the Government has approved of this proposal or not?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, there is no proposal from Tamil Nadu for the battery operated cars. However, there is a proposal from Tamil Nadu for fuel efficient diesel operated car. As per the proposal it gives about 45 kms per litre. That proposal is under consideration of the Government.

SHRIPALA K.M. MATHEW: Sir, I would like to know whether there is any possibility of exporting this car. I would also like to know whether the entire technology used is indigenous and if there is any import o component, what is the percentage of expenditure on that.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I have already made it clear that the entire technology is indigenous, developed by our own R & D wing. There is no component that is imported. So, there is no question of any flow of foreign exchange.

With regard to export possibility, the company has informed us that there are certain enquiries from abroad also about it and the company is exploring the possibility of export. I hope the export will also be possible.

[*Translation*]

Central Food Technological Research
Institute, Nagpur

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*394. SHRI YASHWANTRAO
PATIL:

SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: