

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 18, 1969/Kartika 27, 1891

(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Nationalisation of Car Manufacturing Industry

*32. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Prime Minister has received any letter from the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal suggesting nationalisation of the car manufacturing industry in India ;

(b) if so, the full details of the letter and the suggestions contained therein ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) : (a) and (b). No letter has been received by the Prime Minister from the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding nationalisation of the car industry. However, during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to West Bengal, the Deputy Chief Minister had mentioned to the Prime Minister in the course of informal discussions that the basic industries such as manufacture of cars should be in the Public sector.

(c) Government have under active consideration a proposal to set up a factory in the public sector for the manufacture of 50,000 cars per annum. There is, however, no proposal at present for Government taking over the existing car manufacturing units in the private sector.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : There was a lock-out in the factory of the Hindustan Motors, and the West Bengal Government had insisted on the opening of the factory. May I know the Central Government's reaction to their forcing the factory to open ?...

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : We do not know where our seats are and we do not know where to sit.

MR. SPEAKER : Information about the blocks have been conveyed to hon. Members. Now, there are other Members in the Opposition, and, therefore, something has to be done.

श्री छटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मीटिंग अरेंजमेंट के बारे में आप सब दलों के प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाकर बात करते। जो डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन किया गया है उसमें सब सन्तुष्ट नहीं हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मीटिंग अरेंजमेंट के बारे में आप तय कर लीजिये और मुझे इनफार्म कर दीजिये।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मलाह तो करनी चाहिये थी।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : कुछ तो मानूम होना चाहिये कि हम कहीं हैं।

श्री सु० कु० तापड़िया : सरकार के निकट हैं और कहीं हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको तो खुश होना चाहिये कि आप इधर आ रहे हैं ।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मुझे खुश होने की जरूरत नहीं है । मुझे न स्पीकर बनना है और न प्रेजिडेंट बनना है । जिनको स्पीकर बनना है वे कांग्रेस में जायें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ऐसे ही चलेगा । इधर से इधर चलते जायेंगे ।

SHRI RANJIT SINGH : They are shifting more to the left.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : May I know whether there was a lock-out in the Hindustan Motors and the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal forced them to open the factory ? He said that he could force them to open the factory and he was taking legal opinion on that. When the workers had made it absolutely necessary to have a lock-out, how could they be forced to open the factory ? What is the Central Government's reaction to this ? Is there no law that operates in these things or is it just the sweet will of the Chief Ministers of the States to make them open the factory at the risk of the complete destruction of the factory ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SARI F. A. AHMED) : So far as this matter is concerned, there is no specific law under which this could be done. This can only be done by persuasion. The lock-out has to be removed by persuasion and the workers have to be persuaded to go and work in the factory.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Where is the lock-out ?

MR. SPEAKER : She said that there was a lock-out.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI : There is a lock-out. May I know whether there were lock-outs also in West Bengal in the Bengal Lamps and Bengal Potteries and the same kind of thing was applied to them

to force them to open the factory when their factories were running the risk of being destroyed ?

SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH : That question does not arise out of the main question.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : We have read that Government are considering price increase in respect of the cars manufactured by the three leading manufactures. May I know what decision has been taken ? If no decision has yet been taken, may I know when Government propose to announce the final prices, and what would be the quantum of increase in each case ?

MR. SPEAKER : The main question relates only to the letter from the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : This question is regarding the manufacture and prices of cars. The car problems are all connected.

MR. SPEAKER : The main question concerns only the letter. I am sorry the hon. Member has missed his chance.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : May I know whether Government have seen a prototype small car manufactured by Mr. Sanjay here in Delhi, and whether Government have seen its performance and have examined the question of setting up a new factory....

MR. SPEAKER : That question does not arise out of the main question.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : It refers to the establishment of a new factory for manufacturing small cars.

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is whether the Prime Minister has received a letter from the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal suggesting nationalisation of cars. Government have said 'No'. So, how does the hon. Member's question arise out of the main question ?

SHRI HEM BARUA : The Deputy Chief Minister made this suggestion to the Prime Minister when she visited Calcutta. That is what Government themselves have admitted.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : The question of manufacture of a small car in the public sector has been hanging for a long time....

MR. SPEAKER : That was the question in the name of Dr. Sushila Nayar. That question has not been put. The next question is by Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri as to whether there was a letter from the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal to the Prime Minister. Government have said 'No'. How does the hon. Member's question arise then ?

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The Deputy Minister admitted that the Deputy Chief Minister had suggested during the discussions with the Prime Minister when she had visited Calcutta that the basic industries be including the car industry should be taken over in the public sector. Apart from general considerations of taking over of basic industries, may I know whether it is not a fact that he related his main argument to taking over the car industry, particularly the Hindustan Motors which manufactures Ambassador cars, and other cars also on the ground that these car manufacturers had refused to accept the price increase announced by Government and had been carrying on active propaganda through advertisements and other things to negate the effect of the Government's decision ?

MR. SPEAKER : Has the subject of the talks been mentioned in the reply ?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : No.

MR. SPEAKER : He says that he has not mentioned any subject.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : What did he not mention ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that he did not receive the letter but the Deputy Chief Minister verbally spoke about something, and he has never mentioned what he had spoken about.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Did he put forward any argument ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not mind if the hon. Minister is prepared to reply to the question. But it does not arise out of the main question.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : As has been pointed out in our reply, we did not receive any letter but during the last visit of the Prime Minister, this subject was discussed regarding the nationalisation of the car industry. I do not know the details. When the question was addressed to us, we made enquiries from the Prime Minister's office, and we only heard that no letter was received, but this matter was only mentioned during the discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: rose---

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that any further question arises now. Next question. Q. No. 33.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : 41 भी इसी से ताल्लुक रखता है। उसको भी इसके साथ ले लिया जाए।

[41 भी इसी से तعلق رکھتا ہے۔ اس کو بھی اس کے

ساتھ لے لیا جائے]

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बाद में देखा जाएगा।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is the same question on the same subject. They can be taken together. That is always done in this House. It is the mistake of your Secretariat that they have been put separately.

Scooter Manufacturing Plant in public Sector

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- *33. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :**
SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the financial implications of setting up a scooter manufacturing undertaking in the public sector as declared by him on the 24th October, 1969 ;

(b) whether the declaration was made after consulting the Ministry in regard to the investment involved ; and