

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether there is any definite production plan to meet the requirements?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The figures have been given. Next year, from January 1963 to December 1963 we will be producing 55,000 watches. In the second year we will be reaching 2,00,000. In the third year we will reach 2,40,000 with 72 per cent of the indigenous components. In the next year we will reach 3,60,000.

Price Reduction in Automobiles

*831. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
 { **Shri P. C. Barooah:**

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile manufacturers in the country have been asked by Government to reduce the price of Motor Cycles and Scooters;

(b) if so, whether the manufacturers have agreed to this; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) to (c). At the meeting with the Automobile Industry held at New Delhi on the 19th August, 1962, it was suggested to the industry that they should bring down the prices of scooters. Government would like the industry to devote itself to the question of rationalising production in terms of numbers and prices, with a view to making scooters available to the common man at a reasonable price. Government is in consultation with the industry on this and other problems.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is the reaction of the industry to the suggestion of the Government and are they agreed to some extent that the prices should be reduced?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

No, Sir; no agreement has been arrived at. As I have already stated, this matter has been taken up with the industry and we hope to arrive at some conclusion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that in Delhi itself scooters are sold at a black market price of Rs. 3,000? If so, what steps are being taken to see that scooters are made available to the public at correct prices?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is a Control Order with regard to the selling of scooters also. Nobody can sell within one year of purchase. But, I am sure, some people may commit breaches of that Order and that is quite a different question. Ultimately, the problem can be solved only when we produce more. Unfortunately, we do require foreign components and foreign raw materials now for the purpose of producing the thing. So, in the context of the present foreign exchange position we are unable to increase production. That could be increased only when we make all the components indigenously.

Shri Daji: Is the Government aware that on account of the high price of scooters production is being deliberately cut?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No. They have been given certain targets of production and we are trying to see that those targets are fulfilled subject to foreign exchange also being available to fulfil the targets.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vishram Prasad. There were no watches this side; so, there should be no scooters that side.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No collision.

Shri Vishram Prasad: As the hon. Minister has stated that the price will be low and scooters will be available to the common man, may I know what the price of motor cycles and scooters will be after reduction?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry, I cannot predict things. Only when positive steps are taken we will be able to say definitely what the price would be.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether any assessment has been made by the Government as to what the profit at present is that scooter sellers get in view of the statement of the hon. Minister Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, who said that there was much scope to cut down the price?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have gone into it. As a matter of fact, cost accountants do look into the manufacturing cost. There is not much of a margin, but I do agree that when the scooter goes out of the factory, it sells at a premium. But that is quite a different thing. So far as the manufacturer as such is concerned, as between the selling price of the manufacturer and the production cost there is not much of a difference.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister says that there is not much of a profit to the manufacturer and he cannot say what the price should be, while the hon. Minister without Portfolio said definitely that prices must be cut down to Rs. 1,500 and that if that is not done distribution or manufacture will be taken over by Government. May I know whether there is any co-ordination between the two statements? What is the basis for arriving at the figure of Rs. 1,500? The hon. Minister makes a different statement.

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is complete co-ordination because..... (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not complete, but some co-ordination.... (Interruption). It is a wrong statement.

Shri C. Subramaniam: If you have got to cut down the price to Rs. 1,500, the production scale has to be increased. That has got to be looked into. It is only on that basis that it can be cut down. With the small-scale pro-

duction it is impossible. There are too many units now producing smaller numbers and that is why now attempts are being made to bring them together so that the number produced in one unit may be increased thus bringing down the price.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The question was very clear. How is co-ordination there. The hon. Minister without Portfolio was accusing the present manufacturers for the present cost. He said that if it is not cut down, it will be taken over by the public sector. If it has to be taken over by the public sector, it definitely means that the present manufacturers are not doing it properly. How does he reconcile the two statements? There is no reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker: That was only an obiter dictum..... (Interruption).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I request you to call upon the hon. Minister without Portfolio to answer it..... (Interruption)? He is sitting there hiding behind.... (Interruption). You may call upon him to answer. He is sitting silent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Order. It is not for me to call upon anybody to answer.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The Minister without Portfolio is here. He can explain.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am answering here now. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This argument should not go on in this manner. He has put a question. The Minister says he is answering it. He has answered to the full of his capacity whatever he can say just at the moment.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The Minister without Portfolio is here.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot call upon one Minister after another. If he volunteers, I will give him time. If he remains silent, how can I ask him

when another Minister wants to answer?

Shrimati Renjuka Ray: Considering that the Government has given up the manufacture of motor cars at present in the public sector, what is being done to bring down the price of motor cars which industry has been there in the private sector for many years now and that of the Motor Cycle?

Mr. Speaker: We should not jump from the scooter to motor car.

Shri K. C. Pant: Do I understand that the Government is deliberately encouraging economy of scale to bring about reduction in the price

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes. That is the intension. There have been too many of these concerns doing 3000 and 4000 numbers. That is uneconomic. Combines will have to come about. If that is not possible, how to bring about combines was indicated by the Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. Speaker: Shri P. C. Borooah: He is one of the sponsors.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What arrangements have been made to offer adequate foreign exchange for capital goods for scooter manufacture and thus bring down the price of a scooter?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Within the availability of foreign exchange, it is made available to this industry also.

काश्मीर की स्थिति

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*८३२. { श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री :
श्री प्र० चं० बह ग्ना :
श्री हरिश्चन्द्र मायूर :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि काश्मीर के सम्बन्ध में भारतीय संविधान की धारा ३७० के निराकरण के बारे में एक शिष्ट-

मण्डल उन से तथा प्रधान मंत्री से मिला था ; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस शिष्टमंडल ने राष्ट्रपति को भी एक ज्ञापन दिया है ?

गृह-कार्य मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री वातार) : (क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) जी हाँ ।

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो शिष्ट-मंडल यहाँ आया था और प्रधान मंत्री जी, राष्ट्रपति जी और गृह मंत्री जी से मिला था उस ने जो ज्ञापन दिया था, उस की मुख्य मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

गृह-कार्य मन्त्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : मुख्य बातें ब्योरे में तो उन्होंने ने बताई नहीं । उन्होंने एक मेमोरेण्डम सा लिख कर दिया है, लेकिन उन का खास कहना यही था कि आर्टिकल ३७० नहीं रहना चाहिये और काश्मीर और भारत का पूरा मे लया इन्टिग्रेशन होना चाहिये ।

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि काश्मीर राज्य में विधान सभा बनने के पश्चात् जब काश्मीर राज्य के मुख्य मंत्री और भारत के प्रधान मंत्री ने भी कई बार इस प्रकार के वक्तव्य दिये हैं कि वहाँ की जनता का मत लिया जा चुका है और काश्मीर भारत का अंग हो चुका है तो ऐसी स्थिति में काश्मीर राज्य की विशेष स्थिति रखने की क्या आवश्यकता है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : प्रश्न साफ तो नहीं हुआ लेकिन अगर माननीय सदस्य की मंशा यह जानने की है कि कयाँ काश्मीर की विशेष स्थिति रखी जाती है या मानी जाती है, तो उस का कारण तो माननीय सदस्य को भी स्पष्ट होना चाहिये, जोकि