

depends upon the authors and the quality of the publications. It is certainly not as good as it ought to be.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I know whether irritating restrictions exist even on the import of those books and periodicals, the printing of which in this country is not commercially feasible?

**Shri Kanungo:** No.

**Black-marketeering in Imported Cars**

\*1157. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to restrict black-marketeering in imported cars;

(b) whether a French Press Correspondent was permitted to import a car and his initial duty was substantially reduced; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has permitted him to sell the car to a private party within one and a half years of importation?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) The sales of imported cars are now being canalised through the State Trading Corporation. The position is as under:—

(1) No. of cars purchased by the STC till 15-3-63.	39
(2) Cars in stock with STC at present	22
(3) Sold upto 15-3-63	17

*Party to whom sold*

- (i) Raj Bhavan, Kerala.
- (ii) Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore.
- (iii) Fertilisers Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.

(iv) Press Information Bureau, New Delhi.

(v) Indian Oil Co. Ltd., Bombay.

(vi) Raj Bhavan, Orissa.

(vii) Punjab Government, Chandigarh.

(viii) Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

(ix) Orissa Government, Bhubaneswar.

(x) Orissa Government, Bhubaneswar.

(xi) Praga Tools Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad.

(xii) Mercury Travels Ltd., New Delhi.

(xiii) Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi.

(xiv) Ministry of Finance, (Deptt. of Economic Affairs), New Delhi.

(xv) Perambikulam Aliyar Project, Government of Madras, Madras.

(xvi) Raj Bhavan, U.P.

(xvii) Government of Kerala, Trivandrum.

(b) Yes, Sir. The initial duty was readjusted as the earlier assessed value of the imported car was erroneous.

(c) No, Sir.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In part (b) of the question, I had asked:

“whether a French Press Correspondent was permitted to import a car and his initial duty was substantially reduced.”

In the reply to part (b), the hon. Minister has stated:

“The initial duty was readjusted as the earlier assessed value of the imported car was erroneous.”

May I know why the assessment was erroneous? Do our customs authorities not have the price of a well known make like Renault (Triple Convertible) with them? Is it a fact that the

price assessment was reduced on high ministerial intervention?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Surely, the hon. lady Member does not expect the customs to keep with them a list of the up-to-date prices of about 10,000 makes of car produced in the world. They first assess on what is called a basic tariff value or anything which comes near that. The onus of getting any refund or otherwise is then left to the importer who can produce the documents to show that the tariff value was either higher or lower.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What was the value assessed originally, and was it assessed at ex-factory value originally.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It will be too much to go into all these details in respect of a single transaction. The net difference was about Rs. 2,200. The assessment was made at Rs. 11,000 and the actual value turned out to be Rs. 8,800.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether this particular French correspondent has applied to the STC and he wants a permit for selling this car, and if so, whether this permit has been issued, and if not, whether proper investigation will be made before he is permitted to sell his car?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** I think perhaps the hon. Member had the interest that he should be allowed to sell. The gentleman has refused to sell it to the STC so far, and we cannot allow him to sell it outside the STC.

**श्री भक्त बर्षान :** श्रीमन्, क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात आयी है कि इन्हीं फ्रांसीसी सम्वाददाता ने एक टेली-प्रिंटर मशीन इस देश के अन्दर इसलिए आयात की थी...

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उनके जनरल कॅरेक्टर के बारे में तो सवाल नहीं किया जा सकता ।

**श्री भक्त बर्षान :** मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इन फ्रेंच सम्वाददाता की यह आदत है कि वे इस सुविधा का दुरुपयोग करते हैं...

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह हम यहाँ पर इस वक्त डिसकस नहीं कर रहे हैं । सवाल कार के बारे में है, उसके बारे में सवाल कीजिए ।

**श्री भक्त बर्षान :** क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात आयी है कि इन फ्रेंच सम्वाददाता ने पहले एक टेलीप्रिंटर मशीन यहाँ आयात की थी और फिर उसको बाहर नेपाल भेज दिया था ? क्या उनकी इस आदत के बारे में छानबीन की जायेगी ?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** It does not arise out of this question. There are lakhs and lakhs of importers. It is difficult to answer who brought teleprinters, how they were sold etc.

**Mr. Speaker:** I remember this was discussed on the floor of the House once.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Can Government say categorically that this gentleman will not be allowed to sell this car in the open market—which he intends to sell in the black market—and the STC will purchase the car if he sells it?

**Mr. Speaker:** He has already answered that he will not be allowed to sell it outside.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I find that the STC has been selling cars to government agencies. But in these government agencies named, there is one name, Mercury Travels Ltd., New Delhi. May I know if this firm has become a government body or not? Why was the car allowed to be sold to Mercury Travels, on what basis and for what reason? Is it because the proprietor and director of this firm is a Member of the Rajya Sabha or is it something else?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** There has been a slight misunderstanding. The hon. Member thinks that we sell only to government agencies.....

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Look at this list.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** We want to sell the least number of cars to government departments because that is not the best way of utilising these cars. Travel agencies are people who earn foreign exchange and who require these cars for foreign travellers and to Indians on long-distance trips. Mercury Travels Ltd. is among the travel agencies to whom these cars are allowed according to rules.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** 17 agencies have been listed here to whom the cars have been sold. What the hon. Minister has said runs contrary to what has been stated here. 17 agencies are here; 16 of them are government agencies to whom these cars have been sold.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The hon. Member draws an inference from the list of persons to whom the cars have been sold. The rule is that cars will be sold as under—I have laid a statement on the Table, I think, half a dozen times.

Rashtrapati Bhavan, Defence requirements, Central and State Government departments, public sector undertakings, Raj Bhavan, tourist promotion agencies and public auction.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** When foreigners sell their cars here, is it always done through STC? Or they will be permitted to sell in black market—which transactions take place—and they will be permitted to take away what they earn in the form of foreign exchange? Is it only for government use that STC takes over these cars? If foreigners who are permitted to import cars want to sell them, do they have to do it through STC?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** This applies to all of them, both non-diplomatic and diplomatic. All the cars imported on such basis—even by Indians, not only by foreigners—will be, if they

want to sell them, be saleable to STC. There is a price formula based on import duty plus certain other charges as may be applicable and the basic price minus depreciation. No profit will be allowed. Only that basic money will be allowed to be remitted. The profit, whatever it is, will be appropriated to STC, that is, Government.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** It has been stated that 39 cars have been purchased and 17 have been sold. Have Government made proper arrangements for the safe keeping of the cars which are not yet sold?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** Information is given in the statement. Number of cars purchased till the 15th March, 1963 has been given.

**Mr. Speaker:** She has asked about safe cover for the cars not yet sold.

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** They are all safely covered.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I know whether in this particular case, when this car was brought into India in 1961, full 100 per cent duty on the c.i.f. price was paid and now this person has merely applied to STC for the disposal of this car because he is being transferred out of this country?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** The fact is that the gentleman refuses to hand over the car to STC. We cannot force or coerce anybody. He will not be allowed to sell to anybody else. He has to surrender it to STC.

Regarding price, it is a question of negotiation. He can put us wise about facts and details. There is a standard formula for the evaluation of such cars by all people who sell it to STC.

**Mr. Speaker:** Maheswar Naik.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Is it true he has done nothing by way of.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Shri Maheswar Naik.