

Distribution of Scooters

*869. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
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Shri Ram Garib

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure equitable distribution of scooters at fair prices; and

(b) the result thereof?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The distribution and sale of scooters has been controlled with effect from 2nd September, 1960 by issue of Scooters (Distribution and Sale) Control Order, 1960.

The salient features of the Control Order are:

(i) The dealers are required to sell scooters to only those persons whose orders have been booked by them, strictly in the order of priority in which the orders have been booked;

(ii) With a view to eliminating non-genuine orders, every prospective purchaser is required to furnish along with the application for registration of order a bank guarantee for Rs. 250

(iii) No person can purchase more than one new scooter during the same calendar year;

(iv) No person can sell a scooter before the expiry of one year from the date when it was first purchased as a new scooter, except under a permit in writing from the Controller.

As the Control Order came into force only recently it is yet premature to assess the result thereof. However, it can be said even at this stage that the issue of this Order has largely resulted in the elimination of non-genuine buyers from the market.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether a dealer is required to sell the whole quota of scooters on

priority basis or is there any exception?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no question of priority basis. It is done on the basis of first come first served as registered with the dealers.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: From the statement I find that no person can sell a scooter before the expiry of one year from the date when it was first purchased, except under a permit in writing from the Controller. May I know whether any such sale has been allowed by the Controller so far?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Those figures do not come here, because we have decentralised control. Now every State Controller exercises such authority. But we have no reason to believe that many permits would have been given.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether Government have got details of those who have applied for scooters and how much have been served? May I also know whether they will take Rs. 250 in cash instead of a bank guarantee?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are both types of customers. Some people can afford to give a bank guarantee. Others pay their deposits.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the names of dealers or agents who distribute the scooters. What is the cost now?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The cost varies round about Rs. 2,500, Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 3,000. There are many dealers who are distributing agents.

Shri Achar: I find from the statement that one person can have only one scooter? What is the reason behind it?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have not come to a stage when we can afford to give more than one scooter to an individual.

Shri Tyagi: What is the percentage of profit permitted to the manufacturing firms?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no control as such on prices. But they generally offer broadly reasonable terms with reasonable profits.

Shri Tyagi: So the prices are fixed by the manufacturers themselves?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No. In the case of many commodities which are in scarcity the price is always approved by the Government. Generally we allow 12 per cent return on the capital outlay, as recommended by the Tariff Commission for various commodities.

श्री रामसिंह भाई वर्मा : ग्राम तौर पर यह देखा गया है कि जो लोग स्कूटर खरीदते हैं वे अधिक कीमत पर दूसरों को बेच देते हैं। तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने यह सवाल विचाराधीन है कि जिस को स्कूटर दिया जाय वह अमूल्य अमूल्य वर्षों तक न तो उस को बेच सके, न गिरवी रख सके और न किसी को बख्शीश में दे सके ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वही तो कंडीशन है ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह : यही तो ग्रांडर है ।

That is the precise order. He cannot re-sell it for a year.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must take the trouble of going to the Notice Office and seeing the answers and the statements laid on the Table before putting questions. It is rather unfortunate that hon. Members ask the same questions which have already been answered. In future, I will make a note of hon. Members who put questions which have already been answered for future guidance.

Shortage of Cement

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Shri Padam Dev:

Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Shri Radha Kaman:

Shri D. C. Sharma:

Shri Ram Garib:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment as to the present position of supply and demand of cement in the country has been made;

(b) if so, what is the result; and

(c) the step taken to meet the situation?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The present demand for cement is estimated at about 0.95 million metric tons per month and the present availability is about 0.70 million metric tons per month.

(c) In order to obtain the maximum production with the existing plant and machinery in cement factories, steps are being taken to ensure that the factories are adequately supplied with coal and that the cement produced is moved expeditiously.

Several schemes have been sanctioned for the expansion of existing factories as well as for the installation of new ones and these are being pursued vigorously. The annual installed capacity, which at present stands at 8.7 million tons, is expected to rise to 9.5 million tons by the end of 1960-61, 10.2 million tons by 1961-62, and capacity already licensed for implementation comes to 12.5 million tons by 1963-64. The approved capacity so far comes to 15.6 million tons but the balance of 3.1 million tons is yet to be considered for capital goods and plant. The target capacity fixed for Third Plan is 15 million tons. It is hoped to approve for plant and machinery the balance capacity of 3.1 million tons soon. If neces-