

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1495

5496

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, September 1, 1958/Bhadra,
10, 1881 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

(MR SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sale of Motor Cars and Trucks

+

1011. { Shri Harish Chandra
Mathur:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Birendra Bahadur
Singhji:
Shri E. C. Majhi:
Shri Snbodh Hanada:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) the various steps taken by Government for equitable distribution and sale of motor cars and trucks,

(b) the effect of these various steps and

(c) what is the availability position of these vehicles at present?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix III, annexure No 73]

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what are the conditions which are necessary to restore normal conditions and what steps have already been taken? May we also know when the conditions will become normal?

262 LSD.—1

Shri Manubhai Shah: We do expect that, as a result of the steps which I have mentioned in the statement, within eight to ten months, the entire industry should be on a normal footing

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether any enquiry has been made into the malpractices in the past and whether any action has been taken against any of the manufacturers or any of the dealers, and may I also know how many persons who are on the order list have been dropped?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This matter was gone into in great detail, but as there were certain technical and legal lacunae in our orders, which really necessitated the bringing in of the notification, we could not really pin down the responsibility squarely either on any dealer or on any manufacturer. But even then, in one case, we have stopped their quota of six cars because we found that they had followed some practices which were not correct

Shri A. M. Tariq: What is the justification for allotting a quota of 50 units to Delhi and 14 units to Uttar Pradesh and Punjab when the population of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh is much larger than that of Delhi and the income-tax from people in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab is much higher?

Shri Manubhai Shah: These quotas, as hon. Members are aware, are not based on any population figures. But the offtake of cars from those areas in the years 1956-57 and 1957-58 has been higher

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that most of the dealers who register their

names purchase and sell the cars in the black market and, if so, what is the nature of the steps taken to check this malpractice?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This practice has been practically much corrected after the introduction of the new system according to which resale could be done within two years of the purchase only with the permission of the Automobile Controller in the States or in the Centre.

Shri E. C. Majhi: May I know whether the registration orders have come down this year, compared to last year?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir; but the exact numbers are not known; every day, they are coming down. But we could say that as a result of this notification, several orders have dropped out.

Shri A. M. Tariq: Is it a fact that if a person in Punjab or Uttar Pradesh registers his name for a car he will have a chance of having a car after six years, while a person who registers his name today in Delhi may get a car in six months and, if so, what type of arrangements is being made to enable the people in those States to get cars soon?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The arrangements are all self-contained. The man has to register his name at a place where he wants to buy and he will get the car in his turn in the queue.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Has it come to the notice of the Government that even after the introduction of this deposit scheme, there have been instances where one person registers his name for four cars with two or three dealers—a *benami* transaction—and thus prevents *bona fide* users from getting cars?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Such practices have not come to our light, but another type of practice which arises from the hon. Member's question has come to our notice. It is this. One man registers his own name at more than one place. It is very difficult to check up 300 or more dealers. So, we

are trying to see, after the working of this order for sometime, whether we could prevent the same man giving his application and booking an order at one place, from booking at another place till the car of the first order is delivered.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the total requirement of the country, and what is the present production? What is the basis for the hon. Minister to say that in the next few months the conditions would become normal?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is given in the statement. We expect production requirements to be about 16,000 cars a year. The highest estimate which could be made in a rough and ready way is about 16,000 cars a year. We are stepping up the release of foreign exchange. Fortunately, the indigenous content of the cars is going up very fast and we will be exceeding the quantity of production I now mentioned. It is on this basis that I said that the situation is easing and that conditions might become normal in the next eight to ten months.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Every hon. Member wants a motor-car. How can the hon. Minister help it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The answer to Question No. 1052 may ease the situation and clarify many things. It may be taken up along with this question.

Mr. Speaker: That relates to the manufacture of cars. It cannot be taken up with this question. Manufacture is different from distribution.

The point is this. The hon. Minister has told us that in view of some malpractices that were going on, his Ministry has adumbrated a scheme. If hon. Members want to discuss that scheme, I will allow a half-an-hour discussion. Let them discuss it and then be satisfied. The Ministry is only too anxious to avoid any kind of malpractice going on. They have thought

of a particular scheme. If hon. Members want, let them discuss it during the half-an-hour discussion. Any hon. Member, or many of the hon. Members jointly, may raise the matter

Shri Anwar Harvaal: Half-an-hour is too short a period

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister might take the hon. Members to the Central Hall and discuss it with them'

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I shall have no objection to have a half-an-hour discussion, but I might tell the House that the hon. Members will find no fault with the scheme which we have prepared. I am quite sure of it. I must also say that it has definitely improved the situation. I am not prepared to claim that all shortcomings have been removed, but black-marketing, etc., which was going on on a large scale has definitely come down. If any hon. Member has any particular complaint, he may meet us, and my colleague will be prepared to meet him in the Central Hall or at any other place the Member likes.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose a copy of the scheme will be placed in the Library.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: A few copies may be placed in the Library.

Shri Manabhai Shah: Actually these orders are notified in the gazette. This order is a gazette notification under the law, the Essential Commodities Ordinance. But we shall make it available to every Member who desires it.

Mr. Speaker: A few copies may be placed in the Library. Hon. Members will look into the order and send suggestions to the hon. Minister. If they are not satisfied, I will allow not only a half-an-hour discussion but a two-hour discussion.

श्री म० ना० द्विवेदी . अध्यक्ष महोदय,
मैं ने यह नोटिफिकेशन देना है और मेरे
ध्यान में . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय आज उमके बारे में
वित्तकसन नहीं है ।

श्री म० ना० द्विवेदी मैं वित्तकसन
नहीं करता । जो बात मंत्री जी ने कही है
उमके बारे में मुझे कुछ कहना है । (Interruption)
नहीं जी, याक कीजिये ।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Rajendra Singh

Shri Hem Barua: Question No 1037 may also be taken along with this

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): That is a different question to be answered by a different person.

Shri Hem Barua: The questions are of the same nature.

Mr. Speaker: It must be left to the Minister concerned. There are different Ministers, I think who are to answer these questions.

Shri Hem Barua: The other question would not come up. I gave notice of a short notice question. That has been pushed back. These questions come under the same Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Why should the hon. Minister say that it is to be answered by a different person? Both the questions come under the same Ministry. Let us take both the questions together.

Naga Rebels

+
{ Shri Shree Narayan Das
Shri Rajendra Singh;
Shri Radha Raman;
Shri Raghunath Singh;
*1012 { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi-
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta-
Shri Subiman Ghose;
Shri Damar;
Shrimati Malda Ahmed;

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) the number of Naga rebels who