

to review the whole thing whether it is worth while to manufacture the other components or we should go on importing.

Shri Basappa: Has all the machinery needed for the manufacture been imported?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Orders have been placed and the machinery has started arriving.

Shri K. R. Gupta: Will the quality of these watches compete well with that of the foreign watches?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would request the hon. Member to purchase a watch and test it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the cost of production has now come down and, if so, to what extent?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I have already stated, all the components are being imported now, and we are selling at a price which gives a margin of profit. But when we manufacture the components, the price would go down further.

Mr. Speaker: Shri D. N. Tiwary: Member is not present. Shri D. C. Sharma; Shri Subodh Hansda.

Shri D. C. Sharma: No. 301. Why did you call two names, while I am here?

Mr. Speaker: Because I made a mistake; he was not noticeable.

People's Car

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- *301. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Sinhasan Singh:

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

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the question of manufacture of people's car in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):
 (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long this project has been under consideration? What are the factors that are entering its consideration? Because, I know, on the floor of the House it was said that it will be manufactured very soon.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir. That was the hope. But, hon. Members know that a new Minister has taken charge. He has to go through it and satisfy himself that it is a proper project.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is very strange that a new Minister should try to write on a clean slate. May I know on what points the new Minister wants assurances or satisfaction that is not available to him already by looking at the files which the old Minister has left?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I know I am not writing on a clean slate. Sometimes that is an advantage; sometimes that is a disadvantage. My problem is with reference to the availability of foreign exchange in the present conditions and what priority should be given to this project.

Shri Nath Pai: This matter has been coming up in this House again and again. His predecessor, on the last occasion, to the last Parliament, had given a categorical assurance to this House that a final decision—not a preliminary decision—would be announced in this House in less than six weeks. May I know what has happened to that assurance?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Now, a new Parliament has been elected and a new Minister has taken charge.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know are we not a continuing... (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Therefore, I would plead with the hon. Member to give me some time so that I may have a fresh look into it.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Minister then require a new six weeks?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry, I am unable to give any time limit so that I may not be caught again with regard to time limit.

Shri Tyagi: The other day the Defence Minister answered a query on the floor of the House to say that there was already some small car getting ready for manufacture in the Ordnance factories. Is the Minister collaborating with the other Minister or it will be a different car?

Mr. Speaker: This is what exactly he was saying.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is a totally different proposal to manufacture a small car in the public sector: not in the Defence department, but in the Industries Department. The matter has been considered by a committee and the whole matter has been looked into. I only said that I would like to have some time to look into it and also assess the priority which will have to be given to this project. If we are to get foreign exchange. I will need the co-operation of the Finance Minister also in this respect if we have to take a final decision.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Now, I think this should not be pursued any further. Shri S. C. Samanta.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: My name is also among the Members who have tabled the question.

Mr. Speaker: I have seen his name also along with others. Inclusion of a name does not necessarily imply that he would be called. Then again,

twice, thrice, four times the Minister has said that he wants some more time to look into the whole matter. We should give him time and then perhaps bring it up again.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This is quite contrary to what had been said earlier. We have been given an assurance that it is not at the Ministerial level that the matter was pending.

Mr. Speaker: Let him get familiarised with the facts. Soon that matter may come up again. Shri S. C. Samanta.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It militates against what was said.

**Central Drug Research Institute,
Lucknow**

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*302. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how far the expansion programme of the Central Drug Research Institute at Lucknow, has progressed;

(b) what new wings have recently been opened;

(c) whether necessary plants and and machineries have been installed; and

(d) if not, when their installation is expected to be completed?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) The Institute has now nine scientific divisions and three sections for drug research and drug standardization with necessary facilities of staff and equipment.

(b) A new Block for Pilot Plant and Process Development, a building for Botany and Pharmacognosy Division and a hall for the Drug Museum were opened on 8th March, 1962.