

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 20, 1963/Agrahayana
29, 1885 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

S.T.C. in Automobile Trade

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*679. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;

Will the Minister of International
Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading
Corporation proposes to enter auto-
mobile trade; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals
in this regard?

The Minister of International Trade
(Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b).
No, Sir. Excepting the purchase and
sale of foreign cars imported into
India, arranging import and distribu-
tion of permissible types of auto-
mobile spare parts from the East
European countries and arranging
imports of automobile bearings.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: After
these different aspects of the auto-
mobile car being dealt with by STC,
what is left out? Why not STC take
over the rest?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Everything
is left out. This is only a very very
small portion of the automobile trade.

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Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In view of
the experience gained by STC in the
purchase and sale of foreign cars in
this country and also export and
import, have Government considered
the feasibility of this trade being taken
over by STC?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The export-
import in this matter is very small.
STC generally avoids getting into
the internal trade unless it becomes
absolutely inescapable. In this parti-
cular matter, the hon. Member will
agree that the foreign trade part is a
very small part.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: Is it a fact that
STC is selling cars taken from foreign-
ers here at a very exorbitant price?
If so, what is the reason for that?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is
nothing like exorbitant price. What-
ever market price is ruling, that is
obtained. Where different people
quote for the purchase of the same
car, the most favourable price is
accepted.

Mr. Speaker: When people are
prepared to pay the price, where is
the difficulty?

Shri D. N. Tiwary: Is it not black-
marketing?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir.

Dr. Ranen Sen: In view of the
fact that black-marketing takes place
often in the purchase and sale of
automobiles, have Government any
plan to control it through the STC
somehow? Is it not desirable?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I said,
STC does not engage in the internal
trade. It is only that the prices have
been fixed by the Ministry in consul-

tation with the Tariff Commission and other bodies.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार एस० टी० सी० के जरिये, जो बाहर से मोटर पार्ट्स मंगा करके और हिन्दुस्तान में उनका असैम्बलेज किया जाता है, इस व्यापार में जाने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जी नहीं ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या कारण है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कारण फिर और किसी वक्त दरियाफ्त कर लीजियेगा ।

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is it a fact that an imported car three years old is sold at the high cost of Rs. 85,000 by STC? If so, has any step been taken to stop STC from profiteering in this way?

Mr. Speaker: If the money goes into the exchequer, where is the objection?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The money goes to the exchequer. It is also the wish of this House that we sell it at the best price.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Are Government aware of the almost total disappearance of spare parts of the foreign cars in use in India? Will STC be allowed to import some of these parts so that this paucity is removed?

Mr. Speaker: Suggestion for action.

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is a difference between spare parts and components. What are imported are the spare parts, not the components of the actual manufacturer.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: I referred to spare parts.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister also may kindly look towards me to find out whether I have allowed the question and then try to answer.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it a fact that STC was recently served with a court injunction restraining it from the auction sale of these CD cars? If so, what were the reasons for the injunction and what is the present position?

Mr. Speaker: We need not go into that now.

Shri Manubhai Shah: STC won the case. The injunction was dismissed and sales are proceeding.

Shri Kapur Singh: Without accusing the Government of black-marketing, may I know what the Government propose to do to protect the innocent citizens of the country from the profiteering greed and monopolistic stranglehold of the STC in respect of automobiles as well as other commodities?

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Savitri Nigam.

Shri Kapur Singh: Won't even you come to our protection, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I thought the question itself was a sufficient protection for those innocent people.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What is the amount of commission STC has earned in the sale of these cars?

Mr. Speaker: We need not go into those details.

Manufacture of Agricultural Implements

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*681. { Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 853 on the 13th April, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the negotiations for setting up a factory for manufacturing agricultural implements in collaboration with the Japanese firm have been finalised;