

Therefore, there should be no attempt to denigrate the public sector by saying that it is becoming a national burden. In fact, public sector has taken the nation on its shoulder and marched ahead. The emerging profile of India internationally is because of the public sector and not because of any effort done anywhere in private sector or anywhere else.

Now coming to the problem of autonomy, this has been talked about so vociferously. We are in favour of autonomy. Recently the Government has taken many momentous decisions—historic decisions I must say—in pursuance of the recommendation of the Sen Gupta Committee. For example, our representation on the Board was 3 or 4. That is 3 or 4 representatives of the Ministry used to be on the Board. We have now reduced it drastically. In future, only one person will represent the Department on the Board of any public sector undertaking.

Secondly, we have also extended the term of the Chief Executive which used to be only for two years. Now it will be for five years, so that they can function with greater sense of autonomy. In matters of decisions on investment also we have given them permission from the Government to take decisions at the Board level upto an investment of Rs. 20 crores. Several other measures have been taken to make the Board more autonomous.

But at the same time autonomy cannot go without accountability and answerability. Because we are as investors—the President of India is the investor-accountable to this august House. This House is entitled to know what is happening to that public money. Therefore, you will agree that accountability and answerability have to go together.

Sale of Spurious and Sub-Standard Auto-Parts

*89. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 6 January 1987

regarding increasing trend in the sale of spurious and sub-standard auto parts at the retail out-lets in the major metropolitan cities in the country resulting in huge losses to the exchequer by evasion of sales tax and excise-duty; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to curb the production and marketing of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a number of measures by way of de-licensing of auto ancillary industry, board-banding, re-endorsement of capacities etc., and has also encouraged rapid modernisation and induction of new technology in this sector. Certain fiscal concessions have also been granted for the import of sub-components for the manufacture of specific critical components for fuel efficient vehicles. It is expected that these measures would encourage the production of quality components, and with better availability and more competition in the market, the sale of spurious and sub-standard parts would go down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply is not related to my question. I wanted to know what measures have been taken to curb the manufacture of spurious and sub-standard auto-parts? It is true that de-licensing is being done and certain steps are being taken to promote this industry as well but I want to know what is being done to curb the manufacture of spurious components in factories near Delhi?..... (*Interruptions*).....

These auto-parts are being fitted into cars. These are even being fitted into those cars which are used by the hon. Ministers. Shri Tewary may kindly listen. Besides, there is so much of loss to the Government. You are losing sales tax worth Rs. 3 crores because of such factories where spurious

goods are manufactured which look like the original ones. What measures have been taken in this regard ?

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, this is a de-licensed sector and we are making sale and production of spurious parts a cognizable offence. We have referred the matter to the Law Ministry. Trade Marks Act may also be amended to provide more stringent punishment. This is also under the consideration of the Government. Apart from that we have given excise duty concessions and also allowed collaborations with foreign technology. What else can we do ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : It is all right. But it is not an answer to my question. You have mentioned about de-licensing.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already mentioned that they are taking necessary action to punish those people through law to see that inferior quality product is controlled and superior quality parts are promoted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : But the spurious parts would continue to be manufactured. Against how many manufacturers of spurious parts have you taken action and what punishment has been awarded to them ? The Government machinery itself is responsible for the manufacture of spurious components. In the workshops, your own vehicles are not fitted with original parts although the prices of the original ones are charged from you. Thus the manufactures of the spurious parts make more profit than the manufactures of the original parts. Hence, I want to ask as to what is being done to curb the menace of the marketing of spurious components ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should understand what it implies. It

means that the spurious components are the cause of breaking up of the Lok Dal Party everyday.

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as far as our Department is concerned we have not conducted any study. Press report is on the basis of a study conducted by a private agency. We have asked the Association of Component Manufactures to take certain measures and have seminars to bring awareness amongst the consumers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the duplicate parts are being sold in the market with the knowledge of the hon. Minister. The vehicles which are sent for repair are fitted with sub-standard duplicate parts and what the hon. Minister has stated is not going to solve the problem. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering amendment of the relevant law in order to ensure strict action against the manufactures of the spurious or duplicate components ?

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I have already said that we have taken up this matter with the Law Ministry and we are considering it.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Is the Minister aware that with the introduction of the Consumer Protection Act action can be taken against all these spurious manufactures ?

If so, would he initiate action under this Act ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I don't think it will come under the Consumer Protection Act. If there is any possibility, we will study it.

U. S. Court Judgement in Bhopal Gas Case

*91. DR. DATTA SAMANT :

DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :