

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, August 3, 1983/Sravana 12,
1905 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rationalisation of the cost of cars

*141. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be
pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government
to rationalise the cost of cars in pursu-
ance of the statement made by him in
reply to half-an-hour discussion in Lok
Sabha on 9 May, 1983 ; and

(b) the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI
S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) The
Government have held a series of discus-
sions including those with the manufac-
turers on the issues of price rationalisa-
tion, quality improvement and moderni-
sation of all types of automobiles includ-
ing cars. The Government have also
taken a note of the recommendations
made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs
and Prices on the price structure of cars.

M/s. Premier Automobiles Ltd., have
reduced ex-factory price of their Premier
Padmini car by Rs. 1503/- (which means
reduction of net price by Rs. 1810/- at
Delhi). M/s. Hindustan Motors Ltd.,
have given an assurance to hold prices of
their cars during the current year.

Further, entry of Maruti Udyog Ltd.,
in the field of passenger cars and vans, is
expected to have a salutary effect on the
quality and prices of cars marketed by
other manufacturers.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Sir in
reply to part (a) and (b) of my question,
it is written that there were discussions in
regard to the quality improvement and
modernisation of all types of automob-
iles, including cars. May I know if
they are doing anything for quality im-
provement and modernisation of all types
of automobiles, if they have agreed to
that ?

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA : Sir, we have
been assured by the manufacturers and
we have impressed upon them that their
primary preoccupation should be quality
along with the checking of prices.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Sir, while
replying to a half an hour discussion dur-
ing last session, the Minister had stated
that Premier Padmini and also Amba-
sador are thinking of bringing out new
engines. Have they achieved any prog-
ress in that direction ? And if so, what
is that ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :
Sir, I am very thankful to the Hon. Mem-
ber of having gone through very carefully,
what I said on 19th May, 1983. Therein,

you will please find that I had mentioned about the Annual General Meeting speech of the Chairman of the Premier Automobiles, in which he had mentioned that new dies will be out during this year and that a new model is on the anvil and it is expected to be available within this year. Similarly, the Hindusthan Motors are having a new model—the Vauxhaul model. It is also expected to be out this year. Hindustan Motors have also proposed to have collaboration with Isuzis, who are a famous diesel engine manufacturer, so that they bring out a new fuel efficient diesel engine.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : I would appreciate the various steps taken by our Government on the issues of price rationalization, quality improvement and modernization of automobile industry. I am very much surprised to know that during the last 25 years, prices of our cars have gone up by five times, at the cost of quality, i.e. without improvement in quality and without implementation of any modernisation plans, especially in engine and transmission system. I would like to know whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have also recommended any relationship of quality improvement measures with the price structure of cars. What effective steps is he going to enforce on car manufacturers, especially Hindustan Motors and Premier Automobiles who are still talking this technology from foreign countries, even after having experience for 35 years? What have they done in research and development in 35 years, to improve the quality of cars with indigenous technology, our own engineers and automobile modernisation plan?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : While I do not hold any brief for the automobile manufacturers, I must point out that there have been built-in difficulties on this particular technology front, as far as automobile manufacturing is concerned. In my response to the half-an-hour debate, I had traced in brief the history of automobile manufacture in our country. It is a fact that the original technology which was imported, has been indigenized 99%. But now the question is regarding new patterns, new designs,

new and latest technology and new fuel efficient technology. So, what we are concerned is about the induction of new technology in the field of automotive vehicles. It is in this field that we have been emphasizing the induction of new technology recently, and I am sure that in the next 2 or 3 years, we shall find a breakthrough in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER : They are experts in raising prices.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I would like to know from the Minister whether, as part of the rationalization of the cost of cars, he has considered the complaint of the present manufacturers of automobiles, that Government is not giving them relief on imports of spare parts, which relief is being made available to the Maruti Car Company. Is it a fact that Government has now decided to raise the price of Maruti cars?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : First of all, Government has not taken any decision, by name. It is not by denomination or by name. What we have done, as the hon. Member must have seen, is that we have said that cars with fuel efficient engines will be covered upto 1,000 cc. Whether it is Maruti or any other car, it is upto 1,000 cc. If the fuel efficiency is certified by proper authorities, they will get their relief on the import of components. It is not just for Maruti. It is for others also. If other manufacturers want to bring out small cars with the same specifications, they are also entitled to relief. But beyond 1,000 cc. the matter is under consideration because it has fiscal and monetary implications. As far as Maruti car is concerned, its price has not yet been announced. But I am given to understand that the Maruti car price will not exceed Rs. 47,500 plus local taxes and freight charges.

श्री सत्य नारायण जटिया : हवाओं की तरंगों के अनुरूप, हवा से ज्यादा यतिरोध उत्पन्न न हो सके, इस प्रकार का —
इन भी विकसित किया गया है। फ्यूल

कंजम्पशन कम हो अर ज्यादा दूरी कार तय कर सके, इस प्रकार की बातों को ले कर डिजाइन तैयार किया गया है। हिन्दुस्तान में 33 साल में कोई नया डिजाइन नहीं निकाला गया है, इसके बारे में। हवाओं की तरंगों से पैदा होने वाला गतिरोध कम से कम हो सके, इस प्रकार का डिजाइन बनाने का भी आपके यहां विचार जारी है ?

कारों के लिये ग्राप जो डिपोजिट लेते हैं उपभोक्ता या खरीदार से, उसका आधार क्या है और उस पर इंटरैस्ट भी क्या देते है ?

श्री राम प्यारे पानिका : हवाई बात हो रही है ।

श्री सत्य नारायण जटिया : हवाई बात नहीं हो रही है । जापान में हाल ही में इस तरह की कार डिवेलप हुई है । क्या उसकी जानकारी मंत्री महोदय को है ?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : विचार तरंग उन्होंने जो यहां प्रदर्शित की है ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : विचार तरंगित किए हैं ।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : उसके लिए मैं उनका आभारी हूं। वायु तरंगों पर एयरो-डायनमिक्स जिस को कहते हैं, उसके आधार पर जो नया डिजाइन बना है, नई प्रणाली विकसित की गई है उसके आधार पर व अन्य नियमों पर हमारे यहां पूना में जो आटोमोटिव रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट है वह इस दिशा में रिसर्च कर रही है। अभी यह स्थिति हमारी नहीं है और आवश्यकता भी नहीं है कि जापान में या यू० ए० में जो बड़ी बड़ी कारें हैं या मध्यम कारें हैं, उनके आधार पर वैसी ही घोषणा हम यहां भी

करें। भारत की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप अपनी विशिष्ट पृष्ठभूमि के अनुरूप हमें गवेषणा करनी चाहिये। हमारी विचार तरंगें अपनी आवश्यकताओं और अपनी परिस्थितियों तक सीमित रहनी चाहिये।

श्री सत्य नारायण जटिया : डिपोजिट्स पर इंटरैस्ट के बारे में भी मैंने पूछा था।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : सामान्यतया सात परसेंट ब्याज दिया जाता है।

Development of Liquid Crystal Devices

*142. SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the report in Hindustan Times, dated June 5, 1983, regarding development of liquid crystal devices ;

(b) if so, whether Department of Electronics has not supported the licence application of Bharat Electronics Ltd. based on indigenous technology ;

(c) whether the Department of Electronics is aware of the work done by a Professor of Raman Research Institute in liquid crystal devices ; and

(d) if so, what has been Government's response to this Indian effort ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The industrial licence application for Liquid Crystal Displays made by BEL based on indigenous know-how has been re-cast by BEL as a result