

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
What is the letter?

MR. SPEAKER: I can read it out.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
Kindly enlighten the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How are you able to pass the night without noise?

We sit the whole day. I leave late at night; I have my meals and sleep. Next morning, it starts again.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How lucky you are!

MR. SPEAKER: I only pray you get out of my *janampatri*!

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: This is the Question Hour, Sir. The business before the House is Questions. After the Question Hour is over, Shri Dandavate may, with your permission, raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has herself come.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Sir, I was informed the other day that Shri Madhu Dandavate made a reference to an alleged circular issued by my secretariat. As soon as I heard about it, I wrote to you that there was no truth in this. No circular has gone from the Prime Minister's secretariat in my time... (*Interruption*) Neither verbally nor orally. But earlier on—I am not quite sure of the date—in 1964, and, perhaps once before, a suggestion was made that Questions pertaining to Pakistan and Kashmir should be shown to the Prime Minister. But this was before my time.

AN HON. MEMBER: And China.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I do not know. I have not seen the old papers. In my time, no such

circular has gone. I do not normally look into Questions unless a Minister wants to ask my advice or feels that I should know.

Allotment of Cars and Scooters against Foreign Exchange

*306. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has introduced a scheme of allotment of cars and scooters against foreign exchange and without waiting in queue;

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme;

(c) the categories of persons entitled for these facilities; and

(d) the number of cars and scooters sold under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir, there is a scheme for priority allotment of cars and scooters against inward remittances of foreign exchange.

(b) and (c). The following categories of persons are eligible for priority allotment of cars and scooters against inward remittances of foreign exchange:

- (i) Foreigners who have come to stay in India continuously for at least two years.
- (ii) Indian Nationals who have returned to India from abroad.
- (iii) Relatives of Indians residing abroad when they have received foreign exchange remittances from the latter for the purpose of purchasing a car or scooter.

The foreign exchange equivalent required for this purpose is Rs. 30,000 for a car and Rs. 5,000 for a scooter.

The applicants have to remit the required foreign exchange to a non-convertible account to be opened with any Scheduled Bank in India and submit their applications to the Government through the Bank within three months from the date of credit of foreign exchange. The Release Orders are sent to the applicants directly.

The applicant should not have brought any car or scooter from abroad. The applicant should not have booked any car or scooter in India or with the Government any demand for supply of a car or a scooter to him. Nor should he have taken delivery of a new car or a scooter from any source in India during the last four years. The applicant should give an undertaking that he will not sell the car or scooter, so allotted to him before two years elapse. An individual can apply either for a car or for a scooter.

(d) From January to November, 1974 the following number of vehicles have been allotted against inward remittances of foreign exchange:—

Car	Nos.	Scooters	Nos.
Premier President	578	Bajaj	8428
Ambassador	31	Lambretta	66
	<u>609</u>		<u>8494</u>

The total amount of foreign exchange earned during this period on the above basis comes to Rs. 5.69 crores.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस स्कीम के लिए पहले मंत्रालय को बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देने के बाद यह कहना चाहता हूँ, इस स्टैटमेंट को अगर आप देखेंगे तो इसमें बजाज स्कूटर 8428 दिए गए हैं, जिसके

ऊपर कि ब्लैक बाज चार हजार पांच हजार रुपये के करीब है, तो इस तरह की मूल-प्रीक्टिस को रोकने के लिए आप ने क्या मेजमं लिए हैं ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Sir, in the statement that is laid on the Table of the House, it is clearly stipulated that one condition for allotment as per foreign exchange remittances is that the applicant has to give an undertaking that he will not sell the car or the scooter so allotted to him before the elapse of two years. So, if he violates that, there will be a penal action invoked.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी : मैं यह और जानना चाहता हूँ कि फारेन में जो लोग अपने गिनेटिबल को फारेन एक्सचेंज में पैसा भेजते हैं, क्या आप ने मंत्रालय में यह जानकारी कर ली है कि जितना क्या 5.69 करोड़ आप को इस स्कीम के अन्तर्गत मिला है, क्या उस फारेन एक्सचेंज में कहीं गिरावट तो नहीं आई है और अगर गिरावट आई है तो उसे देखना है, अगर नहीं आई है तो आप स्कूटरों के लिए, इस स्कीम के तहत 6 महीने भी क्यों देते हैं, टाप प्रावार्टी उस को क्यों नहीं देते हैं ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: So far, upto November, the earnings in foreign exchange on this account is Rs. 5.69 crores. In fact, recently after making a bit of liberalisation with a view to earn more foreign exchange, the number of applications is increasing. At the same time, as has been pointed out, there is a production constraint as far as scooters are concerned. Now, the problem regarding car is rather easy, but the problem of scooters is that especially in view of the high cost of fuel and of cars and comparatively, the easier position about scooters, the availability of scooters is less. There is nearly 52 per cent reservation for defense and other priority considerations. So, we

can offer it only within the 45 per cent which is left beyond the quota reserved. At the same time, we are trying to increase the production of scooters. The Scooters India has already started producing scooters and it is expected to go almost into full production next year. Our intention is to increase the production of scooters to nearly 4 lakhs towards the end of 1980.

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं आया। मैंने यह पूछा था पिछले साल में, जो रिजनेदार लोग पैसा भेजते हैं उस फारन-एक्सचेंज मे कोई गिरावट तो नहीं आई है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : गिरावट का क्या मतलब है ?

श्री श्रीकिशन मोदी : जितना रुपया भेजते थे उस से कम तो नहीं भेजते है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : फारन-एक्सचेंज में गिरावट का मतलब है—फ्लक्चुएशन। आप यह कहिये कि भेजने में कमी तो नहीं आई है ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I will not be in a position to tell the House about the decline in remittances because this has no relevance to that.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Before I ask my supplementary, would you kindly permit me to seek one clarification? In the statement the Minister has stated that the applicant is required to remit foreign exchange to a non-convertible account to be opened with any scheduled bank in India. May I know by way of clarification whether this was introduced later or was this condition of opening a non-convertible account there in the beginning?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This condition was not there right in the beginning. It was introduced subsequently.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: So I would like to know how much money in terms of foreign exchange was lost because of absence of this restriction of having a non-convertible account in the beginning?

Then I would like to know whether the Minister knows that the prices of scooters and cars in the black market are much higher than the prices at which they are sold officially and if so, whether the Government are not aware of the fact that because of this they are already losing in terms of foreign exchange. Would the Government, therefore, not consider raising the limit of foreign exchange to be remitted an amount nearer the amount at which the scooters and cars are selling in India?

Lastly, will the Government also not consider the question of those applicants who have been waiting in the queue for 5 or 10 or 15 years, but who have no relations abroad to remit foreign exchange? How are they to get their scooters, because these people coming at a later stage are getting a priority over them?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Regarding the first part of the question, this condition about non-convertible remittances of foreign exchange was introduced with a view to prevent any incidence of a likely misuse.

Regarding the second part of the question, it may be difficult for the Government to stipulate remittance of foreign exchange higher than the prices of the scooter. We cannot take into consideration the premium and ask for a higher amount and the remittance of foreign exchange itself is an advantage to the country.

Regarding the third part of the question, namely, the present scarcity, as I have already answered in reply to another hon. Member's question, we are taking steps to see that the

production of scooter is increased substantially. More so, it is considered to be a middle-class man's vehicle.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Minister says that he cannot take into account the black market prices, but, surely the Government know that for the last 50 many years, between the official rate and the black market price there is a big gulf. Why don't you take that as a point and increase the foreign exchange amount?

SHRI BISHWANARAYAN SHASTRI: In the statement given it is stated Relatives of Indians residing abroad when they have received foreign exchange remittances from the latter for the purpose of purchasing a car or scooter. May I know is there any norm to indicate the degree of relationship?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: No hard and fast rule about exact relationship; it has been stipulated he should be a relative. The purpose of the scheme is to realise as much foreign exchange as is available with our Indian friends who are abroad; we have not stipulated whether it should be close or distant relative; we have said relative.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: The Minister said that the purpose of the scheme is to get as much foreign exchange as possible from Indians living abroad. Why do you restrict it to relative? Why not include friends also?

MR SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action?

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहती हूँ—श्रम दफतरी में लड़कियां ज्यादा संख्या में काम करती हैं, वे पैदल आती जाती हैं, यदि स्कूटर के लिये वे भी आवेदन-पत्र दें तो क्या आप उन्हें भी स्कूटर देने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: In the matter of this allotment we don't make distinction between man and woman.

SHRIMATI M GODFREY: I would like to ask the Minister whether those who have been abroad and have earned foreign exchange for the country are also eligible to this concession?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: This cannot be permitted.

Allotment of Newsprint to Statesman, Times of India and Indian Express during 1972-74

*309. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the actual requirement of newsprint of the newspapers viz.
(i) Statesman (ii) Times of India
(iii) Indian Express in the years 1972, 1973 and 1974;

(b) the total quantity granted by the Ministry to these newspapers during this period; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made about the proper utilization of the newsprint by the above-mentioned group of newspapers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) (a) and (b), A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As provided in the Newsprint Allocation Policy, newsprint quota is issued to newspapers after examining the actual performance of the paper as stated in the Certificate furnished by the publisher's Chartered Accountant and deducting any short consumption from the entitlement. Complaints in regard to utilisation of newsprint by the Statesman Ltd., have been received which are being examined.