

Setting up of scooter Plant in Public Sector with Foreign Collaboration

*39. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations with foreign concerns for collaborations for setting up of scooter plant in the public sector have been finalised;

(b) if so, the name of concern with which negotiations have been held; and

(c) the terms and conditions of collaboration ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Not yet, Sir,

(b) Negotiations are in progress with Messrs Piaggio of Italy.

(c) The terms and conditions of collaboration are yet to be finalised.

Demand and Licensed Capacity of Scooters

*46. DR. KARNI SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTARI) be pleased state :

(a) the anticipated demand for scooters during the current year and the next two years, yearwise;

(b) whether the present licensed capacity for scooter manufacture is far short of the actual demand;

(c) if so, the normal waiting period separately for allotment of a scooter, from the general quota and Government quota; and

(d) the reasons for not licensing further capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS

MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The working Group on Transport Industries set up by the Planning Commission had estimated the annual demand for motor cycles, scooters and mopeds (combined) at :

150,000	Nos.	1971-72
175,000	Nos.	1972-73
210,000	Nos.	1973-74

The demand for scooters alone has not been assessed separately.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The waiting period in respect of allotments scooters from the Central Government quota varies according to the make of scooter, pay drawn and the nature of duties performed by the applicant. Generally, it varies from 3 months to 1-1/2 years in respect of "Lambretta" scooter and one year to about seven years in respect of "Bajaj 150" scooter on the basis of the current production of levels.

As regards the public quota, the period of waiting varies from place to place. In the case of booking made with dealers in Delhi, it is about 7 years for Lambretta scooter and about 9 years for Bajaj 150 scooter on the basis of the present levels of production.

(d) It is not correct to say that further capacity for the manufacture of scooters is not being licensed. In fact, letters of indent have already been granted to 16 parties for the establishment of new units for the manufacturers of scooters based on indigenous designs and resources for a total capacity of 3,66,000 Nos. per annum. Letters of indent are also being issued to two more parties for a total capacity of 48,000 Nos. per annum. The expansion schemes of the four existing scooter manufacturers are also under consideration. In addition, Govt. have decided, in principle, to set up

a unit in the public sector for the manufacture of a scooter of a proven foreign design, for an annual capacity of 1,00,000 scooters.

**Setting up of Public Sector
Scooterette Project**

*49. SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA : Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to the setting up of Public Sector Scooterette Project in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the financial implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUHDURY) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal under the consideration to set up a Unit in the public sector for the manufacture of scooterettes. However, Government have decided to set up a public sector unit for the manufacture of scooters of a proven foreign design with an annual capacity of 100,000 Nos. In pursuance of this decision, offers had been invited from interested parties in foreign countries. In response an offer of collaboration has been received from a firm in Italy manufacturing Vespa Scooters. This offer is under consideration.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : The Government's policy regarding the scooter manufacture is characterized by procrastination, sluggishness and sloppiness, it seems probably that the hon. minister is not aware that in the past many decisions have been taken in this matter, but subsequently they have been set at rest ; God knows for what reasons This is what has happened.

You will find that the Government is seeking foreign collaboration, and, at the same time, in reply to another starred question asking about the Government's

policy, the Government said that they are also thinking of taking it up under the public sector.

Now, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a technical committee, an expert committee was, formed last year and it was suggested that its report should be submitted by February of this year, and whether this report has been submitted and, if so, what has happened to its recommendations ?

Then, about this foreign collaboration, may I know how long will this Government go on negotiating with this firm-Messrs Piaggio of Italy. and when will they start it?

Thirdly, will the hon. Minister please state before this august house what is the latest requirement and what is the demand, for scooters ? To my knowledge, it is said that more than three lakh applications are still pending for scooters today, which are regarded as the common man's vehicle. May I know whether the Government will take up this matter expeditiously and come to a final settlement in this matter?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUHDURY : it is true a committee of experts to work out and advise the Government on a suitable indigenous design and a programme of production of scooters in the public sector was appointed. The committee came to the conclusion that no indigenously developed design for a scooter was readily available and that the development of a new design of a scooter starting from the drawing-board would take about four to five years.

Thereafter, the project planning and implementation may take a further period of three years. Therefore, this question was abandoned.

Thereafter, my predecessor made a Statement in the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August 1970, in the course of which he said that we would set up a project in the public sector with an initial capacity for producing 1 lakh scooters per year on double shift. After this, we have started negotiation, which is in progress. It is true that there is a very great shortage of scooters. We have ourselves decided to go into produc-