

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the Pande Committee set up in 1960 to examine the feasibility of manufacture of a low cost car in the country. The Report of this Committee was received in 1961. The Committee had expressed the view that it was possible to produce a car at about Rs. 5,100 ex-factory at a level of a production of 50,000 cars a year and at about Rs. 6,150 ex-factory at level of production of 20,000 cars a year, in both cases exclusive of excise duty. It had also recommended that the offer of M/s. Renault of France for taking up the manufacture of their "Dauphine" model car in the country was the most attractive both on technical and on economic grounds. In 1962, as stated in the statement made in the Lok Sabha on 9th August, the consideration of the low cost car project was deferred until more propitious conditions developed in regard to not only money resources but also physical resources like building materials, steel, power and transport.

MOTOR CAR QUALITY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S  
REPORT

\*713. SHRI D. N. DEB :  
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
DR. M. SANTOSHAM :  
SHRI A. DIPA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 33 on the 13th February, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the Report of the Motor Car Quality Enquiry Committee, 1967; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Report of the Pande Committee together with Government Resolution thereon containing the decisions of Government on the various recommendations made in the Report was laid on the table of the Sabha on 16-2-1968.

PANNA MINES IN M.P.

\*714. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are undertaking the planned production of diamonds in the Panna mining area in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, when the planned production will start;

(c) the expected annual production of diamonds and the foreign exchange to be earned thereby; and

(d) the cost of machinery installed there ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) to (c). The National Mineral Development Corporation are developing mines at Majhagawan and Ramkheria in Panna for the production of 12,000 and 11,250 carats of diamond per annum respectively which are expected to be commissioned by July 1968 and January, 1969 respectively. It is not possible to estimate the foreign exchange earnings from the sale of these diamonds.

(d) The plant and machinery at these mines are expected to cost Rs. 31.40 lakhs.

MECHANISATION OF FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

\*715. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of Indian footwear abroad has declined considerably;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-mechanisation of the industry is one of the reasons for this decline;

(c) if so, the efforts so far made or which are being made to provide adequate funds for the mechanisation of the industry; and

(d) the extent to which the efforts have borne fruits ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) There has been some decline in the export