

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 2nd May, 1988/12 Vaisakha, -1910
(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, The
Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN ..

1: Shrimati Ratah Kumari
(Madhya Pradesh)

2. Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare
(Maharashtra).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Import of Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone System**

•101. SHRI, V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised their policy of importing Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone System though it was initially agreed that the System would be imported;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for sudden decision to stop the import of these car telephones; and

(d) whether Government have indigenous technology for manufacturing car telephones?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Not yet. However, preliminary work for indigenous development of small capacity systems has been taken in hand.

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SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, we have been receiving contradictory Press reports about the Telecommunication Department favouring importing this technology when the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Technical Adviser have not favoured it on the ground that it is costly. Madam, the actual position is that the roads in our country are congested and there is no communication network in the country and the system has not reached that stage wherein cellular technology can be accepted for the mobile telephone system. (Secondly, out of the 430 districts in our country, only 187 districts we have covered with the STD facility and We have not yet extended the same to the other areas. Another aspect is that more than 40 per cent of the villages in the country have still not got the tele-communication system. Under these circumstances, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the Ministry is still in favour of having this technology¹ since it is a costly affair - and whether the Ministry is going to develop the same technology indigenously.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Madam, as far as technologies are concerned, it all depends on the objectives that we want to achieve. If we want to reach our people in the shortest possible time and if we want to reach them at the fastest speed, then We must be willing to accept all modern technology that will help us in reaching that objective. That is the approach of the Government. As far as this mobile telephone system is concerned, we have looked at its economic viability in view of the fact that the latest technology of cellular system, which is a radio telephone system, is considered useful even to reach people in the rural areas where laying of lines and cables is a costly affair. So I agree with the hon. Member that our objective must be to reach the people in the best manner. It is>

nothing but a Mobile telephone. The word 'car-Telephone' has been unnecessarily used to confuse the issue, it seems; to me. Mobile telephone can be used in car also if someone wants to use it in car. But the idea is wireless system of telephone. And we want to see how best we can use this* technology to serve our people. As I have announced recently the scheme of "instant telephones", if some rich people make a deposit of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 40,000 we can give them: 'instant telephone'. - , The same amount that we earn we will use it for public telephone booths. Here also we have seen the economics. That we want to try in - major places like "Bombay and Bhihi. We find that it ..will be most economical because from each user of this telephone we will have a deposit of Rs. 50,000; We will recover the entire capital investment from the deposits of the people and we will be earning a net return from the revenue. So it is not a costly proposition as has been alleged.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: My second supplementary is "that the hon. Minister says that it is not a costly proposition. The information which I gathered would show that the money which we have to invest for 4 mobile telephones would be equivalent to 80 telephones under the C-DOT system. This is the contrast between the two—4:80. The hon. Minister says—that it will reach the rural areas. But in view of the present state of our economy; my humble * opinion is that the Cellular Mobile - technology will not be conducive. ..Then,; apart from that,, the hon. Minister in part (c) of the question has given the answer that a part of -the technology is developed. - indigenously, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the stage of the indigenous technology development in our country as far as the Cellular technology is concerned?

;sfel.V;ASANT SATHE: As far as the, development indigenously is concerned, we are trying to, develop all technologies, "except the switch. May

I say—I am not; technical person; I do not know whether the hon. Member is...

SHRI V. NAKAYANA^AMY- I am also not a technical expert.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Very good. Both are equally ignorant of -the technical aspect, (Interruption) We depend on the information given to us by technical people.

The information that I have been given says that there is no conflict between the "S-DOT system which is meant for rural areas for demand of telephones, 80 or 100—and we will go on expanding it—and the Cellular system. Therefore, .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Questions of priority.

SHRI VASANT SATHE I am telling about priority. Our problem, as I said, is ultimately, how to reach and serve our people, the best and the fastest both in the urban as well as urban rural areas.

AN HON. MEMBER Throughout the country.

S, HRI. VASANT^ SATHE: Yes. Therefore, when there is no conflict on technology, I do not want to be prejudiced about any particular technology.

•-PROFRA^AKS^ANWA: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Minister stated the objective of Teaching the people as fast as possible. I would like to know whether this objective has been examined in view of the fact that many of the villages in the country do not have an all-weather road. Even if the information reaches there they have to come back to urban centres or other centres. Will it be possible for them to come? I would like to, ask the hon. Minister a few, things. Firstly, what is the amount that is likely to be spent in having this, technology at Cellular Mobile, system in the country? Secondly, whether this "Cellular Mobile system which being effectively implemented is cost-effective. I would like to

also like to know whether the policy which has been given in the Technology Mission is in harmony with this policy or it is in contact with it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Don't ask too many A, B, C, Ds. Otherwise I will forget. (Interruptions) The investment in the experimental project in Bombay was going to be 18 crores of rupees for 5000 lines. We were going to get more than this by way of deposit and therefore, in effect, we were using the public money as an investment for trying the system. The rental that we would be getting would be about Rs. 1000 from each connection and that also would be giving us a gross return of 40 per cent. Therefore, economically an absolutely visible proposition. His second question "Will it come into conflict with any technology. I am told that it will not come into conflict with the C-DOT technology of any other technology. The more systems we have, the better. We have to reach the people in a better way.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I had asked about the technology absorption. Do we have sufficient capacity to absorb this technology?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We have the capacity to absorb this capacity.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam, the Minister has said that by 2000 AD there will not be any waiting list for "getting telephones. phones doing very good planning and I would like to congratulate him for this. Part (c) 'If the question asks whether Government have indigenous technology for manufacturing car telephones. I am not interested in the technology for manufacturing car telephones. I am just interested in asking the hon. Minister whether there is any indigenous technology available for making the working of telephones more efficient and that too in the rural areas. If you go to the rural areas, you will find that for a number of days tele-

phones remain out of order. Is there any technology for making the telephones work more efficiently? if it is available you please tell me about it?

SHRI YASANT SATHE: The existing technologies that we have are also being updated. We had the crossbar and strowger. Now the latest technologies we are trying to use is the fibre optics in regard to the cables. There is the CDOT technology which has been indigenously developed. All this is aimed at improving the working of telephone particularly in the remote and rural areas. As we go ahead with improving these technologies, our telephone will work better.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Madam, the hon. Minister referred to a depositor being given priority after depositing Rs. 80,000. Instead of giving priority to the moneyed people, why should not the hon. Minister give priority to those who are holding responsible posts in the public services and to the professionals who are spending their time in the service of the people? He should give priority to these people instead of giving it to a few people who can deposit Rs. 50,000. If these few people get the telephones the others will be deprived.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Nobody will be deprived. This will depend on the exigency of the requirement. At present, as I said earlier, some of those people who did want to use this facility, to them it is a lot of luxury. (As there are those who are capable of depositing a higher amount, I want to utilise that deposit to serve poorer people and other people by giving more public call facility. As far as those in public services are concerned, they can also use this through their public service. We will not stop them from doing that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Najma Heptulla.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Madam, the question which I wanted to put has already been asked by Mr. Jadhav.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 10a.

Manufacture of passenger cars with foreign collaboration

*102. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI-. Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleaded to state:

(a) whether the foreign collaboration in the manufacture of passenger cars in the country is being considered by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATU IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUS-TRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government have received 18 proposals for the manufacture of passenger cars out of which 16 proposals are with Foreign Collaboration. The names of the applicants and the proposed collaborators are given in the attached annexure (*See below*). These proposals are currently pending and will be considered in the light of the new automobile policy being evolved by the Government.

Annexure

The detailsof proposals received for the manufacture of passenger cars with foreign collaboration are as under

Sl. No.	Name of Indian Company	Name of Collaborator
1	M/s. Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay	M/s. Nissan Motor Co., Japan
2	M/s. Escorts Ltd., New Delhi	M/s. Citron Automobiles, France
3	M/s. Kerala Commercial Vehicles, Trivandrum	M/s. Fiat, Italy
4	M/s. TELCO, Bombay	M/s. Honda Motor Co., Japan
5	M/s. Gujarat Ind. Dev., Corpn., Ahmedabad	M/s. Joanneau SA, France
6	M/s. Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta	M/s. Isuzu Motor Co., Japan
7	M/s. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.*, Bombay	M/s. Automobile Peugeot, France
8	Shri P.K. Aggarwal, Bombay	V/O Autoexport Promasheexport, U.S.S.R.
9	Shri T.V. Reddy, Hyderabad	M/s. Fiat, Italy
10	M/s Varna Motor Wagons, Hyderabad	M/s. Volvo car, Holland
11	Mrs. Nirlep. Kaur, Chandigarh	M/s. Autoexport, U.S.S.R.
12	M/s. Asian Vehicles Ltd., New Delhi	M/s Atutoexport, U.S.S.R.
13	M/s. Sikkim Lada Ltd., Gangtok	M/s. Autoexport Promasheexport, U.S.S.R.
14	M/s. Bajaj Tempo Ltd., Pune.	M/s. Daihatsu Motor Co., Japan
15	Shri Raunaq Singh, New Delhi.	M/s. BMW, West Germany
16	Punjab State Industrial Development Corpn. Chandigarh'.	Foreign Collaborator not identified.