

## 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 Ratan 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 COMMUNICA-  
TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-  
vised their policy of importing Cel-  
lular 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

(c) whether Government have  
indigenous technology for manufac-  
turing car telephones?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND  
THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-  
TIONS (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.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Madam, we have been receiving con-  
tradictory Press reports about the  
Telecommunication Department fav-  
ouring 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 reach-  
ed that stage wherein cellular techno-  
logy 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-communi-  
cation system. Under these circum-  
stances, I would like to know from the  
honourable Minister whether the  
Ministry is still in favour of having  
this technology 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 techno-  
logy that will help us in reaching  
that objective. That is the approach  
of the Government. As far as this  
mobile telephone system is concern-  
ed, 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 peo-  
ple in the rural areas where laying of  
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 Delhi. 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?

**SHRI VASANT 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 a technical person; I do not know whether the hon. Member is...

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** 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.

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

**PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:** Madam Deputy Chairman, the Minister stated the objective of reaching 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 of Cellular Mobile system in the country? Secondly, whether this Cellular Mobile system which is being contemplated is cost-effective. I would

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 conflict 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 16 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 it is an absolutely viable proposition. His second question was whether it will come into conflict with any technology. I am told that it will not come into conflict with the C-DOT technology or any other technology. The more systems we have, the merrier. 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. He is doing very good planning and I would like to congratulate him for this. Part (c) of 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, will you please tell me about it?

**SHRI VASANT 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 C-DOT technology which has been indigenously developed. All this is aimed at improving the working of telephones, particularly in the remote and rural areas. As we go ahead with improving these technologies, our telephones will work better.

**SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:** Madam, the hon. Minister referred to a depositor being given priority after depositing Rs. 50,000. 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 services. 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. 102.

**Manufacture of passenger cars with foreign collaboration**

\*102. **SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased 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 STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL 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 details of 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., Corp., 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. Vama Motor Wagons, Hyderabad	M/s. Voivo 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 Corp., Chandigarh.	Foreign Collaborator not identified.