

Fake car permit racket in Delhi

210. SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:
SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:†
- SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGGARLAMUDI:
- SHRI SUNDAR MANI PAEL:
- SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
- SHRI SYED HUSSAIN.
- SHRIMATI LAKHSMI KUMARI CHUNDAWATI:
- SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
- SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:
- SHRI K. C. PANDA:
- SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
- SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:
- SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:
- SHRI GOLAP BARBORA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some cases have recently been detected in Delhi where cars were sold on fake allotment permits;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases detected;
- (c) whether any officials of the Ministry were found involved in the racket; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 35 permits, alleged to have been forged have been detected. Cars were delivered against 33 of such 35 permits.

(c) and (d) Two functionaries at the Ministerial level, in respect of whom complicity has been charged have been suspended.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Rathnabai Sreenivasa Rao.

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is fully satisfied that all the persons involved in this racket have been booked, and what steps will be taken in future to streamline the procedure for allotment of cars and to plug the lacunae which have been responsible for this racketeering?

SHRI J. A. PAI: Sir, the answer to parts (c) and (d) remains unreplied. The answer is:

"Two functionaries at the Ministerial level, in respect of whom complicity has been charged have been suspended".

We discovered that certain permits were being faked. There is a case of alleged forgery also of the permits. This case was reported by the Hindustan Motors on one of the car allotments. On filing a complaint with the police we were able to discover about 35 fake permits. We have gone through all the cases of allotment from 1st of January 1973 and have found only 35 such cases. The matter is under investigation by the police because *prima facie* cases were made against two employees of the Ministry. We have taken action in suspending them. We have also evolved certain other procedure which are. I am afraid, not in the public interest to disclose because it was a small lacuna which was availed of all this time. About 35,000 permits were issued. Only recently faked cases were brought to our notice. Therefore, all necessary precautions are taken in order to see that such incidents do not happen.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: It has been brought to our notice that the police officer who was making enquiries has beaten up the parties. May I know, Sir, what action has been taken against him and the names of the persons involved who were treated so badly by the police officer?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I am not aware of this complaint. The Ministry had filed the complaint for investigating into these allegations of fake permits. What the police have done with those whom they suspected I am unable to answer.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: The Minister said that 35 instances came to his notice since the 1st January 1973. Would he like to inform the House that similar incidents did not take place prior to January 1973, and can he enlighten the House whether this kind of thing was going on for a longer period or was it an aberration of a very recent nature?

SHRI T. A. PAI: This was noticed only recently. This happened to be a recent occurrence and, therefore, we wanted to go back to a period beginning from January 1973 in order to find out whether this has been a regular feature. We have found that it has not been so. I do not think it would be worth our while to go into the allotments made since the order came into existence.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपके मंत्रालय ने पर्मिट इश्यू करने का अधिकार कुछ अधिकारियों को ही दे रखा है या इसके लिए क्या इस प्रकार की कोई समिति बनाई हुई है कि जिसके द्वारा पर्मिट का आधार बनाया जाता है और पर्मिट दिए जाते हैं ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि पिछले 2 वर्षों में आऊट आफ टर्ण या आऊट आफ कोटा में कितने पर्मिट्स कारों की प्रायगिटी के मामले में दिए गए ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How does it arise?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The question refers to fake permits. It has nothing to do with the allocation of cars or, perhaps, the abuse in the power of discretion vested in the allocation of cars. No committee has been constituted for allocation of cars but certain rules have been laid down for the allocation of cars. Discretion involves also out-of-turn allotments that have been made under special circumstances.

SHRI NJREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether you are quite sure at what price these cars on fake permits have been sold in the market. Is it at the blackmarket rates? If so, I would like to

know whether other firms, for example, Premier and Standard, are also involved and whether there is some collusion between Government officials and these companies also. For instance, if the price of a Hindustan Motors car is Rs. 24,000 or Rs. 25,000, it can sell in the black-market at Rs. 35,000 and there will be division of the profits. So, would he make a thorough probe into the entire affairs of the three firms so that such things do not recur? Since this fake permit business has been going on for a pretty long time in all the cities perhaps, would he make a thorough probe or ask the CBI to enquire into the whole matter?

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, it is difficult to believe that it has been going on in all the cities. This was discovered to have happened only in the course of the last couple of months in Delhi. The fake cases have arisen primarily because, as the hon. Member pointed out, there is a big blackmarket price for the car and it is very difficult to get even a permit. Naturally those who got these fake permits would have paid more. All these things are being investigated because it is also an offence technically for a person just to go in for a car on a fake permit.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is strange to his Ministry to find fake permits for cars? Is it not common in this country to-day to create fake currency, fake passports...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question does not arise.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Yes, Sir; as a nation we have lost character. Is it not, therefore, necessary that everyone of us in this country should pray to God for re-birth of Mahatma Gandhi to rectify the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not answer this, Mr. Appan.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that all these irregularities like

scramble, blackmarket, premium price for these permits, are there on account of the scarcity of the commodity, namely, cars? If this be the case, why could not the Government be honest and honourable to rise to the occasion to produce sufficient number of cars? Is it not a fact that in India there are lakhs and lakhs of people waiting for allotment of cars? Under these circumstances, will he make a promise on the floor of the House that he will increase the production of cars? It is not difficult for him. I know definitely that for Mr. Pai it is not difficult to treble the production of cars if only he intends and presses the Government to make sufficient allotment of money to treble the production of cars.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, under our economic conditions, cars are considered an item of luxury which can be afforded only by the affluent sections of the people. However desirable it may be, we have very limited resources in this country for this kind of luxury.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: He has tremendous faith in you.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: On these fake permits cars have been allotted to 35 persons and they have taken the cars. Is there any enquiry against them? Can he disclose the names of these 35 persons here on the floor of the House?

SHRI T. A. PAI: What is the question that you are asking?

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: My question is under these fake permits cars must have been issued to 35 persons. I wanted to know the names of those persons to whom these cars have been issued and what action has been taken against them.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Those cars have been impounded and those persons have given an undertaking to the court to produce the cars whenever called upon to do so. The matter is under investigation...

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: What are the names of those persons?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I am afraid it is for the court to decide how many of them

were really forged permits and fake permits, and before that it would be difficult for me to accuse anyone.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Sir, the Minister says the cases are pending. I am not asking whether they are convicted or not...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, the answer has come. Now, Mr. Shyam Lal Gupta.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: The Minister has said the car is a luxury. Then, will he seek the permission of the Prime Minister not to allow Deputy Ministers or Ministers to have cars? They can travel like common people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question does not arise. Next question, 211.

Indian Labour for Bulgaria

*211. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:†

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI G. R. PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bulgaria has shown her willingness to employ construction labour from India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals made in this regard;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether any other country has also agreed to employ Indian labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Rathnabai Sreenivasa Rao.