

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The list does not appear to include textile goods, particularly man-made fibres in which the rate of profitability is the highest in the country today. Why does not the Government include man-made fibre in the list?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an argument Mr. Mani. may I pass on to the next Question unless you insist on putting a question? We have taken so much time already. Mr. B. K. Kaul, you raised your hand last of all, after Mr. Mani. So I hope you will not mind my passing on to the next question. Next Question.

PRODUCTION OF PASSENGER BUSES IN PUBLIC SECTOR

*665. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:†

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

DR. SALIG RAM:

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start production of passenger buses in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it will be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, why the Government gives preference to small cars or cheap cars as compared to passenger buses, because passenger buses are likely to be used by the poorer sections of the people who are finding transport very difficult?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, as far as the buses are concerned, Leyland is manufacturing buses, and also

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

there are other bus manufacturers. In the case of Leyland the waiting period is about 4 to 5 months, while in the case of TELCO's Mercedes Benz the waiting period is about 9 to 10 months. So I do not think there is any pressing need for the buses. In case it is there, the licensed capacity is there and they can produce more.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The waiting list for Mercedes may not be as long as the Minister wishes but there is extreme scarcity of passenger buses in the country and passengers who have to travel in public transport, as I did ten days back, find it very difficult to find a seat. May I know if the Government will take any steps, or whether the Government has under consideration any steps, to make more passenger buses available on the roads so that people in the rural areas may travel in convenience?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: One thing is the manufacture or production of the trucks and buses and the other thing is whether they could be purchased by the State Governments to help the users. If the hon. Member wants a reply about the manufacturing side I am prepared to tell the hon. Member that we have enough capacity and we have already taken steps to increase the capacity in 1973-74. If he wants the buses to be provided by the State Governments he should ask the State Governments to purchase more buses and make them available to the people.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I inform him that unless buses are manufactured they cannot be on the road?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The hon. Minister has very conveniently shoved on the responsibility to the State Transport Authorities but Delhi is under the Centre. The state of buses in Delhi is deplorable and people have to wait in queue for hours together. They are not available in time. Government officers cannot go to the offices in time. In view of this cheap and safe transport buses is the most important thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant, kindly put your question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Has the Government made any estimate at least for the metropolitan city of Delhi as to how much buses will be required for coping with the rising transport needs and for providing quick service and may I know whether the present policy of going in for a small car will be changed in favour of buses?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: The Prime Minister wanted a study to be made of the requirements of buses in Calcutta, Delhi and other places and it is estimated that about 84,000 buses would be required in 1973-74 and for that provision has been made.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister should be made to travel in public transport; then they will realise the difficulty.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, Mr. Arjun Arora started travelling only recently in public buses but I have been travelling from much earlier.

Then, there is no relationship between the small car and the manufacture of buses and trucks. We have enough capacity in the country and we are also exporting our trucks to foreign countries.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: You know the position in Delhi?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: I know the condition of buses in Delhi is bad. I will definitely pass on this information to the concerned quarters.

डा० शलिग्राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि अगर पब्लिक सेक्टर में इस तरह की पैनजर बसेज बनाई जायें तो जो कीमतें इसकी आज बढ़ रही हैं और आलरेडी जिन सेक्टरों में यह बनाई जा रही हैं उनके द्वारा जो कीमतें बढ़ाई जा रही हैं वह कम होंगी और बसेज ज्यादा मिल सकेंगी और उनकी एफिशियेंसी भी शायद ज्यादा होगी क्योंकि गवर्नमेंट हर चीज को ठीक ढंग से, अच्छे ढंग से, बनायेगी जबकि दूसरी तरफ हर चीज में डिटरियोरेशन हो रहा है, चीजें खराब बनाई जा रही हैं, मैटीरियल खराब इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है और कीमतें बढ़ाई जा रही हैं।

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: I am thankful to the hon. Member for giving credit to the public sector unit manufacturing this thing. So far we have one public sector unit which is engaged in the manufacture of trucks required for the military and in case we find it necessary we might extend it even for civil consumption.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: Will the Minister be able to throw some light on the possibility of introducing trolley buses operated by electricity particularly in view of the foul gases that are being thrown out in every city and that pollute the air? Secondly, is the Minister aware that the chassis frames are being imported from outside and may I know whether there is any proposal to manufacture chassis frames in the country in the public sector?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: The hon. Member has/had experience of this. When he was a Minister and Chairman of the Road Transport he introduced these trolley-buses, but they were found to be a nuisance to the public. I do not know why he wants to introduce it.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: I could not introduce. It was because of the overhead electric wires.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: About the chassis, there is a private company which is manufacturing it.

SCOOTERETTE PROJECT

*666. **SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKHI:**

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:†

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:

SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further progress has been made in the matter of preparation of a feasibility study of the State Sector Scooterette Project;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.