

ments. We cannot make aircraft available because somebody has to fulfil his quota of flying hours.

**श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :**  
क्या श्रीमान् को यह ज्ञात है कि निश्चिन्त अग्रि  
कम करने के कारण, जैसे पायलट की ट्रेनिंग  
का डेढ़ साल का कोर्स छः महीने कर दिया  
और इसी तरह ने इस मामले में कंजूसी करने  
की वजह से इस वर्ष चार कैडट मारे गये, तो  
यह सारी व्यवस्था इस मामले में कम न की  
जाय और व्यवस्थित रूप से जो निर्धारित  
कोटा है वह चानू किया जाय जिससे ये दुर्घटनायें  
कम हों, इसके बारे में क्या विचार है ?

**SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN:** I do not think, Sir, it would be right to connect accidents with this particular state of affairs but naturally during the emergency as we had to increase our operational staff, etc., we had to reduce the period of the courses for training, and that was done taking into account the safety concessions also.

OFFICE BUILDING FOR DIRECTOR P. & T.  
ORISSA

**\*474. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:**  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plot of land has been purchased by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Bhubaneswar for construction of office building for the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount of money sanctioned for the purpose; and

(c) the reasons for delay in starting the construction work?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI):** (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 48,125/- inclusive of land for Post Office, Telegraph Office and Telephone Exchange.

(c) Shortage of resources.

# NON-RELEASE OF LUXURY CARS BY S.T.C.

**\*475. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:**  
will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that he has issued instructions to the State Trading Corporation not to release luxury cars for the use of any Union Minister or central Government Department?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI LAL BAHADUR):** Yes, Instructions were issued to the State Trading Corporation to the effect that cars costing more than Rs. 10,000/- c.i.f. should not ordinarily be sold to Government Departments.

**SHRI N. SHRI RAMA REDDY:**  
Sir, I would like to know the underlying idea behind such instructions.

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** Well, it is better for as many officers as possible to use smaller cars so that we give encouragement to our indigenous cars. Secondly, I do not want that the Government should be deprived of the income by the sale of these cars. If we keep it to ourselves, it is just a book entry. I want that they should be sold to others, so that those who have got enough money with them should purchase them at the highest price possible, because we auction these cars.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** Are these instructions applicable to the State Governments and to the public sector undertakings also or only to the Central Government officers?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** To the State Governments, yes. But in the case of Chief Ministers and Governors, if they want one or two big cars, we will allow it. But so far as the public sector undertakings are concerned, we do not want to put a ban. Big cars could be given to them because their employees have to move about in isolated areas and in difficult areas. Officers have to go to far-off places and stay there for long periods. Therefore in

the case of public sector undertakings we have made an exception.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** I would like to know how many cars have been sold to the public and what profit has been made for the last one year.

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** Sir, the details of sales are as follows: By tenders: 139 big cars and 128 small cars. To tourist agencies: 42 and 44. The total by tenders is 267 and to tourist agencies it is 86. Then they have been given to various State Governments and public undertakings etc.

**श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी :** श्रीमान्, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कारपोरेशन को जो पत्र लिखा है उसमें "नार्मली" शब्द का प्रयोग किया है कि नार्मली ये मोटरे न दी जायें । क्या उन्हें इस बात का डर नहीं है कि इस "नार्मली" शब्द का उपयोग करके जिन्हें कारें नहीं मिलनी चाहियें, उन्हें दे दी जायेंगी ?

**श्री लाल बहादुर :** : यह लफ्ज ऐसे लगा देना अच्छा हुआ करता है । मैं इसमें अगर "नार्मली" शब्द न लगाता तो फंस गया था । हमारे मिनिस्टर आफ कम्युनिकेशन विराजमान हैं । इसी लिये उनको भी कार मिल गई । उनको मोटर मिलने वाली थी, तब तक आर्डर इश्यू हो गया और वह पर्ची इश्यू होने को बाकी थी, लेकिन "नार्मली" शब्द की वजह से वे बच गये, वरना उनको भी नहीं मिलती ।

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** In the question it is said that the hon. Prime Minister wrote to the State Trading Corporation not to sell luxury cars for the use of any Union Minister. This seems to be an abnormal procedure. May I know, Sir, why he took this extraordinary abnormal course of writing to the State Trading Corporation not to sell these cars to Union Ministers instead of writing to the Ministers concerned

that they should not buy from the State Trading Corporation these cars. Does he expect that some of his Ministers may not be attentive to such instructions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** No, no.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** You are not the Prime Minister. Will he kindly say why he adopted this abnormal procedure? Does it show lack of faith in his colleagues? There must be valid reasons for doing so.

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is a very, very intelligent person, Sir. Sometimes he imports meaning into things which do not really exist. But I cannot help it. His intelligence is so great.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** It is an abnormal answer.

**SHRI A. D. MANI:** May I invite the attention of the Prime Minister to the terms of the question? The question says:—

"that he has issued instructions to the State Trading Corporation not to release luxury cars for the use of any Union Minister...."

It is said that he has issued such an order. I know the Prime Minister's simplicity in going about in a small car. But has he tried to find out how many of his colleagues use luxury cars as staff cars, and if they are doing so, has he advised his colleagues not to use these cars at least to set an example of austerity living in these days?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** Well, Sir, I am also guilty of that mistake. when I was Minister Without Portfolio, a big car—if I might use that word—was actually forced on me. I had absolutely no idea that I was going to keep that big car. But one of my colleagues took special interest in it and sent a big car to me. So that car is still with me. But the point is, whatever happened in the past,

we have now to see how we can dispose of or use these cars in future. What is important is that we should try to use smaller cars. But these cars had already been allotted to Ministers. There is no point in returning these cars to the S.T.C. Their number is not very large.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Let us auction them.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has just said that these cars had already been bought and they should be kept. May I know, Sir, why these cars are not handed over to the Corporation for sale? After all, the Prime Minister has set an example of going about in a small car. Why can others also not do that?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is a suggestion for action.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that a car costing Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000 in foreign countries fetches about a lakh of rupees in the tender system? That is what was reported in the papers.

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** Therefore, I have asked the S.T.C. to bid these cars and put them to sale, and very few cars, as I said, may go to the Tourist Section. There also from these tourist agencies etc. we will get a good price. So our effort would be in future to sell away as many luxury cars as possible.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** The point is this. Since the example set by the Prime Minister is a good example, has he an idea as to how many Ministers use so big cars that sometimes you cannot see them when they travel? They use big cars so that we know that a Minister is travelling. Rather in such cases when the Minister gets sunk in the car you cannot discover him. What to do with such cars? Is it not possible for the hon. Prime Minister to take an inventory of these cars, and

make them over to do the State Trading Corporation to be sold to multimillionaries who could buy big cars and who could be seen also?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** There is only one Minister who could not be seen in these big cars. It is myself.

**SHRI C. D. PANDE:** May I know from the hon. Prime Minister that when the cars are sold to the Chief Ministers or the Governors of States, what is the price charged? Of course, in their case it is a book entry. What is the price that you charge in your account books?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** I want notice for that question.

**SHRI B. K. P. SINHA:** May I know, Sir, if Government of India have some unified agency for the purchase of cars or our Ministers and the departments make their own purchases?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** In so far as these cars are concerned, they are purchased only through the S.T.C. and no other organisation.

**SHRI SANTOKH SINGH:** May I know, Sir, if there is a possibility of releasing these luxury cars to hon. Members of Parliament?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** They could certainly purchase it. The hon. Member who has put this question is certainly in a position to purchase a big car costing about a lakh of rupees.

**SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA:** Sir, in view of many diplomatic necessities later on India may also require some big cars. May I know, Sir, why we should not have such cars for some pomp and show and for our foreign guests?

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR:** We have taken care of that, Sir.

**COL. B. H. ZAIDI:** If a small car is a necessary symbol of simplicity,

why not small houses for Ministers? They should give up their big houses. Why this emphasis on small cars only? Is it a car alone which determines one's simplicity or luxury?

MR. CHAIRMAN. He must begin somewhere.

476 [The questioner (Shri Mahabir Dass) was absent for answer vide cols. infra.]

### शिलांग स्थित पाकिस्तान के सहायक उच्चायुक्त का कार्यालय

\*४७७. श्री ए० बी० वाजपेयी : क्या बंदेशिक कार्य मंत्री २८ अप्रैल, १९६४ को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १२७ के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार ने पाकिस्तान के सहायक उच्चायुक्त के शिलांग स्थित कार्यालय को बन्द करने के प्रश्न पर अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया है ?

†[OFFICE OF PAKISTAN ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SHILLONG

\*477 SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 127 in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 1964 and state whether Government have since taken a final decision with regard to the question of closure of the office of the Pakistan Assistant High Commissioner in Shillong?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N MENON): The examination of the question relating to the closure of the Assistant High Commission for Pakistan in Shillong has been completed, but a final decision has, for the present, been deferred.

‡[बंदेशिक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी एन० मेनन) : शिलांग में पाकिस्तान के सहायक हाई कमिशन को बन्द करने से सम्बद्ध सवाल की जाच

†[ ] English translation.

‡[ ] Hindi translation.

की जा चुकी है। लेकिन, फिलहाल इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय नहीं लिया जा रहा है।]

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE: Sir, in view of allegations of espionage against this particular office, may I know why a final decision has been deferred? An investigation was conducted by the External Affairs Ministry. After the investigation is concluded, final decision should be taken. I should like to know the reasons for the delay in taking a final decision.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Sir, it is true, as Mr. Vajpayee has said, that there have been complaints, and they have been looked into also. We had almost taken a decision in this regard, but due to certain conditions we felt that the matter could be held up. I would not like to go into these reasons. But whenever an occasion arise we will have no objection to taking this House into confidence

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE. Are we to understand that the occasion has not arisen yet to close this office? When the Government of Pakistan has already closed our office in East Pakistan, why reciprocal action is delayed so much here?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR Well, Sir, I did not want to go into the reasons. It is just possible that one of our offices which were closed in Pakistan . . .

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Rajshahi

SHRI LAL BAHADUR . . . might be opened. If we can open our office there, then we may have to reconsider about this Shillong office. Therefore, we are keeping this matter pending. In case the Rajshahi office decision is taken, then we will decide as to what we should do with regard to the Shillong office.