

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 29th August, 1960/the
7th Bhadra, 1882 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Maganbhai S. Patel (Gujarat).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MANUFACTURE OF SMALL UTILITY
CARS

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA
SWAMY

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI

SHRI K. K. SHAH

467. SHRI M. M. MEHTA:

SHRI DAHYABHAI V.
PATEL:

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any model has been
selected by Government for the
manufacture of small utility cars in
the country;

(b) whether Government propose
to collaborate with any foreign firm
in this regard; and

(c) if so, on what terms and con-
ditions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI
MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) to (c) No model
has so far been selected by Government
for the manufacture of small utility cars
in the country. Government are
examining the whole question and their
decision will be announced shortly.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY:
The report of the Jha Committee has

†The question was actually asked *on*
the floor of the House by Shri M. S.
Gurupada Swamy.

499 RS—1.

been with us since long. May I know-
why there has been this long delay in
taking a decision? Is it due to the usual
habit with the Government to delay or
was there any great reason for this
indecision?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The House
will recall that there has been hardly any
delay on this question. The Committee
was not only meant for small cars but
they had to review the progress of the
entire automobile and ancillary industries
and we are trying to expedite the decision
and I hope to lay before the House within
a week or 10 days the decision of the
Government.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY:
May I know whether the Minister can tell
us as to when the people could get the
small cars in the market?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It depends
on the decision which I will place before
the House.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
May I know whether the Hindustan
Aircraft Limited, Bangalore, have
produced one medium car which would
cost Rs. 5,000 and whether the
Government would consider the question
of producing small cars in the Hindustan
Aircraft Factory in the public sector?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There is at
present no proposal for the Hindustan
Aircrafts Limited, to undertake the
manufacture but when the entire decision
including that about the small car is
known, the House would be in a position
to know all the aspects.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is the Minister
aware that in Europe cars are available at
a price of approximately Rs. 3,500, I
mean 3,250 Marks, and whether the
Government have thought it advisable to
enquire into the manufacture of such a
car with parts already manufactured by
the automobile industry here so that a lot
of foreign exchange could then be

saved instead of asking a private firm to build a car?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He understands the question.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We share the feelings of the hon. Member, that of the House and that of the country that there is need for a small cheap car. Whether it will be of Rs. 3,200 or Rs. 3,500, I cannot say. So far what we have been able to aim at is, or the terms of the Jha Committee were to build a car between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 7,000, delivered to a customer and that is what we said and that is what the Jha Committee has recommended that it is possible to manufacture a car within that price range.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is it a fact that the Defence Department is making experiments or is proposing to bring forth a car or a small jeep car?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Experiments should be continued everywhere and when the results of such experiments are finalised or when they fructify, the country and the House will come to know of them.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: What are the different models or types of cars and which are the firms which the Government is considering before they come to a decision about this?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is what I have said that no model has been selected.

DIFFICULTIES OF HAJ PILGRIMS

•468. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the 'Al Jamiat' in its issue of the 15th November, 1959 pointing out the difficulties which are experienced by the Indian Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia; and

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry in the matter and if so, whether Government will place a copy of the findings of this inquiry on the Table of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) and (b) Yes. No further inquiry into the alleged difficulties seems necessary. The House has already been informed on 11th August 1960, in answer to Question No. 180, that an unofficial delegation of two Members of Parliament, was sent to Saudi Arabia during the recent Haj season to enquire into the arrangements made by the Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Saudi Arabia in regard to the travel and stay of Indian pilgrims. A report from them is awaited.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will it be made available to the Parliament?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: After examining it, we will consider whether it is necessary to place it on the Table of the House.

*469. [For answer, vide cols. 2472-73 infra.]

*470. [The questioner (Shri K. P. Verma) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2479 infra.]

INDO-SAUDI ARABIAN TRADE

•471. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade with Saudi Arabia, particularly exports, have been declining steadily during the last five years and our expenditure on our Embassy there is increasing steadily; and

(b) what are the reasons for this decline in exports, whether the advice of experts has been sought to study the situation and make a report and //