

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 conditions?

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.

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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 if