

Automobile in India

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The recent public announcement on Tata Nano car as the World's cheapest car equipped with the latest gadgetry is a mark of India's industrialization and technological development. American industrialization through the auto development became the leading force of American economy. This prompted President Eisenhower to declare####what is good for General Motors is good for America!

I am opposed to this development. My reasons for this opposition are the following:

1. Imagine the danger of pollution generated by adding millions of cars more, a serious threat of environmental destruction.
2. The crises of oil imports and their rising costs for a country like India, are catastrophic. India can't afford the expensive oil and lubricants by neglecting all other economic considerations. Alternative energy sources (water, wind, sun or nuclear energy) are far from available in the near future. Strains on India's foreign exchange earnings is not desirable for the general economic wellbeing of India.
3. Cars need well-built smooth roads and bridges, and their maintenance. Road construction is unavailable and both very expensive and time consuming. Can India afford thousands of crores of rupees to develop, in the near future, a network of national, regional and local highways and municipal roads?
4. Road regulation necessitate traffic lights, road signs, traffic police, etc., to deal with violators. Expensive proposition!
5. Training in car driving, issuing driving licenses, car registration, etc., also need bureaucracy and public budgets. Increased governmentalization!
6. In North America auto accident is the second biggest killer of citizens, besides maiming innumerable. Accidents necessitate ambulance and hospital facilities, police, investigators, judicial officers, tribunals, jails, etc. More expenses and more government role!
7. In North America, car thievery has become a growing and sustained crime especially by teenagers. Such theft necessitates police, investigators, clerks, judges, jails. More government expenditures!
8. Setting up gas stations on most roads require land, buildings, petrol supplies, mechanics, repair services, etc.

9. Huge insurance companies appear requiring the setting up of car insurance and health insurance, and hundreds of laws will have to be devised to regulate the insurance business. More government and more public expenditures!
10. More cars mean more parking lots - ground or high-rise, in public places like schools, universities, offices, hospitals, temples, theatres, residences, etc. Land use, metered lots, ticketing and collecting charges for illegal parking and so on, become necessary in places where land is scarce.
11. In the manufacture of cars many materials are needed, like steel, copper, zinc, aluminium, fabrics, plastics, rubber, lubricants, etc. These materials will have to be developed in India or imported at heavy costs and increased dependencies on foreign suppliers.
12. Advertising car sales demand huge media outlets to brainwash the public on the desirability of owning, high-speed driving and to show off social status through car ownership. Autos will shape social values like status-seeking consumerism.
13. Automobile industry develops powerful lobbies - of manufacturers, oil suppliers and consumers, insurance companies, and users addicted to social status through car ownership.
14. All the above problems just to satisfy the auto passion of the small ratio of India's citizenry (perhaps 2% at best). The whole nation catering to the whims and fancies of a small ratio of population, is not the price worth paying.
15. Transportation is, of course, a necessary means for traveling, trade, shopping, communications, etc. But, individualized car is not the answer. Underground electric trains, electric trams, boats, buses should develop a network of convenient and inexpensive means of mass transportation.

In the light of the above mentioned arguments, it would be better if Indian industry and technology were focused on mass transportation, instead of copying Western model of individualized auto system.