

worst offenders in the matter of violation of the orders of ban on production of coloured cotton sarees by powerlooms'. I wish to clarify in this connection that the reference to Andhra Pradesh had been made in advertently. I had actually meant to refer to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and not Andhra Pradesh.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT (1970-71) OF THE COFFEE BOARD

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in Hindi) of the Thirty-first Annual Report of the Coffee Board for the year 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3554/72]

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 23 read with subsection (4) of section 22 of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) Eleventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the year 1970-71, together with the auditor's report on the accounts.
- (ii) Review by Government on the working of the Commission. [Placed in Library. See No. Lt-3578/72 for (i) and (ii)]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPORT A LARGE NUMBER OF TRACTORS WITHOUT SURVEY OF THEIR DEMAND AND QUALITY

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minis-

ter of Agriculture to the reported decision of the Government to import a large number of tractors from various countries without making any survey of their demand and quality vis-à-vis production in the country.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government of India has, in consultation with the Planning Commission, decided to import 20,000 Nos. of tractors—50% tractors will be imported in S. K. D. condition with deletions. The tractors for which manufacturing facilities have already been effectively established in the country mainly fall in the H. P. range of 35-50. By and large, care will be taken to ensure that imports are made of tractors in the H. P. ranges oilier than these already being manufactured in the country. Also, only such tractors as have an approved manufacturing programme in the country are proposed to be imported, subject, however, to the availability of foreign exchange. As usual, model-wise details of import are being considered by an Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Assessment of demand of tractors was made on the basis of pending registrations with the dealers of indigenous manufacturers as well as with Agio-Industries Corporations in the various States (after discounting these figures suitably on account of possible duplicate orders and over-lapping) and the projected demand for the period ending 31st December, 1972. Net requirement of tractors was worked out after taking into account the availability from indigenous production, imports in the pipeline, etc.

Even though the gap between the demand assessed on the above basis and the availability of tractors was much more, it was decided to import 20,000 Nos. only as import to this extent was considered inescapable. It was, however, decided that the position regarding further imports will be reviewed as soon as the demand for tractors is assessed by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. A study of assessment of demand during the remaining period of Fourth Plan and the Fifth Plan period, on scientific basis, has since been

entrusted to National Council of Applied Economic Research and their report is awaited.

Government of India is very keen to encourage indigenous production of tractors. In order to encourage domestic production Government of India have given a number of facilities to the tractor manufacturers. Ministry of Agriculture is constantly in touch with the Ministry of Industrial Development with a view to achieve accelerated production within the country.

SHRI N. G. CORAY : I find that the reply given by the Minister is not satisfactory at all. I do not know whether it is a muddle or whether it is a racket. I am surprised that on the 24th the statement that the Minister of Agriculture Shri Fakhr-ud-din AM Ahmed was reported to have been made in the Consultative Committee was that the Government of India would import 1,20,000 tractors. Then, Sir, surprise was expressed and the Ministry came out with a correction saying that only 20,000 tractors were to be imported. Now, in the Consultative Committee again, as it was reported, the honourable Minister had made two points. One was that massive import of tractors with the necessary spare parts had become necessary because of the new massive schemes of increased farm production, etc. that the Government was planning to undertake and the second point was about the shortfall in the indigenous production. Now, Sir, it was immediately pointed out the next day by the Chairman of M/S Escorts, Shri Nanda, that there were a number of tractors lying with the producers and also with the Agro-Industries Corporations in the various States. Sir, if you look at the figure, you will find that in reply to a question put here in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th April 1972, the reply given by the Minister says that for the tractors, whatever they may belong to, the prices were in the range of Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 31,000. So, if you are going to import about twenty thousand tractors with spare parts, etc., it means nearly Rs. 50 crores or perhaps more. Now, the question is whether there is any need to import so many tractors, because there are so many factors and one of the factors is that in this country there are thousands of tractors remaining

with the various dealers and the Agro-Industries Corporations unsold and their number is 5,000. You will find that the manufacturers in Madras have shut down and the same thing is happening so far as the tractor manufacture in Baroda is concerned and I think that if the Government's policy of importing tractors to the tune of 20,000 or 30,000 continues, we have to take it for granted that the indigenous tractor manufacturers will certainly have to wind up their show. This does not include the unassembled tractors with the producers like the HMT and others.

Sir, I feel that all along the Government has not been able to find out the true demand. Just now the Minister said that there was a fair demand for tractors. Now, if you analyse the demand you will find that so far as the Massey-Ferguson tractor is concerned 90% of the entire demand is for those tractors. That shows that the Government will have to import these tractors if the demand is really genuine. I would like to say that it is not so. This demand is a sort of made out demand, a false demand, put up by the various trading centres and the merchants. I would like to point out here that it was possible for the indigenous tractor manufacturers to give all the tractors that we need if the various subsidies on them by way of taxation, etc. were removed. It is possible, because the installed capacity of all the tractor manufacturers in India will be sufficient to meet the indigenous requirements. That is not happening. Because, Sir, the Government is giving permission to all sorts of people to manufacture tractors.

Sir, I would quote an example. In Hyderabad, a huge building has been erected and I was told that there is no machinery in the building at all. There are a few tractors and a few spare parts, because they are not in a position to manufacture tractors. Because of this unrestricted import, I would like to know from the Government, Sir, that if really according to the estimate 20,000 tractors were needed, why is it that the tractors which are the re with the manufacturers and with the trading centres are not being lifted? I can give you the example of Kirloskar. They imported 500 tractors as part of their total import licence. Sir,

[Shri N. G. Goray]

not more than 15 to 20 tractors have been lifted; all the remaining tractors are lying with them.

Sir, I do not know if the Government intends to buy more tractors from countries like East Germany, what would happen to tractors we have already with us. We already got from them; it is a well known story. I would like to know from him whether really these 20,000 tractors are needed by our agriculturists or whether it is being done under some pressure—pressure from the world Bank, for instance, or pressure from other countries, other Communist countries. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister that if these 20,000 tractors are going to be imported—most probably very soon—what will happen to the tractor industry in own country? These are the two questions.

Then, lastly, Sir, if you are going to put a ceiling on the land, have you taken this also into account: With the reduction in the ceiling, will it be profitable or will the agriculturists go in for buying tractors when the land shrinks to 10 acres or 12 acres? And if tractors are likely to be purchased by smaller agriculturists, is it not necessary to think in terms of smaller Power tillers or some other high and medium variety?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member has raised the basic issue and raised some doubt whether Government of India's policy is to discourage domestic production of tractors? May I assure him that it is not at all the intention of the Government? In fact, as I said in the statement, the Government of India's policy is to encourage indigenous production. I need not reiterate and repeat that our demand is so large that ultimately we will have to develop our indigenous capacity. There is requirement of tractors of various ranges of horsepower, including power tiller, as has been referred to by the hon. Member, because our agro-climatic conditions and soil structure differ very much from area to area. So there is requirement of various horsepower ranges in our country. But the basic doubt seems to appear to come from

the fact as to what is the assessment. In fact, I have got some figures with me, and from this the hon. Member will be convinced that the decision that the Government of India has taken is something which is not arbitrary or which is against the interests of the country as such. Last year, when some assessment was made we found that with the indigenous manufacturers—one has to deposit some amount for registering himself—there was a demand for 72,629 tractors. With the Agro-Industries Corporation the demand was for 81,976. This came, to 1,54,000 in June 1/1. This did not include the demand of agro-service centres, Defence personnel or the tractors required for area development etc. So, according to our estimate, their requirement was about 11,000 or 12,000 tractors. Assuming that 33% of it may be overlapping—somebody might have registered himself that both the places in his anxiety to have it quickly—the demand comes almost to 1,14,000. If estimate of projected demand upto 1972 is taken into account, total demand comes up almost to 2 lakhs.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Seven thousand tractors are already lying there . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I am coming to that. This explains the position obtaining last year. Thereafter, the Tractor (Distribution & Sale) Control Order was promulgated from 1-9-71. Under this order, applications are registered after a deposit of Rs. 1,000.

There are various forms prescribed and even then we find that the total registration of various makes of imported tractors as on 31st March, 1972, with the Agro-Industries Corporation was 27,000 and with indigenous manufacturers about 30,000. In addition, the Director General of Resettlement for ex-servicemen and defence personnel had registered a list of 15,000. So, the total number of the demand comes to more than 65,000. Now, taking into consideration this registered demand with Rs. 1,000 as deposit and that only 16,000 number is the indigenous production, you can see how much is the wide gap between demand and supply. In fact, there was a black market, a number of farmers were

put to a lot of inconvenience. One had to wait for months and years only some time back. Now, some other factors have come in. Our estimates, therefore, are not wrong.

I would again like to mention that the tractors which we are going to import by and large would not be in the same range which are manufactured in this country. The tractors which are manufactured in our country are mainly within the range of 30 H. P. to 50 H. P. We will import tractors below 25 H. P. or above 50 H. P. barring a few exceptions. Therefore, the indigenous manufacturing programme is not likely to be adversely affected.

However, the point I was making was that there is such a wide demand. Last year due to some fiscal duties, taxation etc. there has been some change in the demands particularly of the tractors of very high prices, i. e. Rs. 35,000 or Rs. 40,000. There seems to be some slackening of demand. But the figures which I gave were of March 1972 and this figure related to the actual registration with deposits. Therefore, my Ministry estimates are not in any way wrong. Only what I would like to submit is that in order to leave no doubt in regard to these matters, as I have stated in the main Part of my reply, we have referred this matter to the National Council of Applied Economic Research. They will be making recommendations and Government would be acting on the basis of those recommendations. I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no intention whatsoever of the Government of India to do anything which will adversely affect indigenous manufacturing.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I would like to know one point. Why is it that the tractors which are already here are not being lifted if such a demand is there ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : In fact what you mention is not correct. For instance, as far as the Agro-Industries Corporations are concerned, whatever information I have got as on 30th June, 1972, the number of the tractors which are lying with the Agro-Industries Corporations include 458/RAO 9 tractors which are to be returned to the GDR. There is so much controversy

about these tractors. No doubt, they are lying with the Agro-Industries Corporation, but there is an understanding that they are to be returned to the GDR.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat):
How long would you take to do that ?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh):
Why don't you start your own factory ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Anyway this number is not material. There are about 750 tractors which are under assembly with the Agro-Industries Corporation. Since these tractors are still under assembly, this number is also not material. Then the reserve for the Agro-Services Centres is about 37 tractors. The number of the tractors under allotment/delivery—this is the relevant number is 1275. Now, in the country, as a whole, where there are more than 15 Agro-Industrial Corporations in the country, unless they have some stock of about 15 to 20 to 30 tractors each, how can they deal with the situation ? So, the number is not so large.

I would again like to explain one thing. Take for instance the Ferguson tractors. In fact, the hon. Member is himself knowledgeable, he himself knows that farmers have to wait in queue for two to three years even now for getting a tractor. For quality material there is no lack of demand in this country. In fact, there is some premium for this tractor and, therefore, I would like to be enlightened by the hon. Member if M/s Massey Ferguson are prepared to supply, if they have any stock, to the Indian farmer. My information is that one has to wait on the waiting list up to 2½ years.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I went with the Speaker on a Parliamentary Delegation to England. We were taken to the Massey Ferguson factory and what they were doing was they were making tractors on order. Why don't you ask them ? They will give you immediately.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Despite your association with Hindustan Tractors—he is expected to be a very knowledgeable person

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SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I am very knowledgeable all right. Will you put the report of the Tractor Prices Inquiry Committee of your own Ministry on the Table of the House ? You will get startling disclosures as to how the Government is destroying this industry. The Government is responsible for the destruction of this industry. Since the Minister says so, will he place the report of the Tractor Prices Inquiry Committee of his own Ministry on the Table of the House ? That is why I call this Minister the Minister for Industrial Destruction and not Industrial Development.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I was explaining the position; I was referring to the indigenously manufactured Massey-Fergusson tractors. Some Massey-Fergusson tractors are also imported but that is a different matter. I was specifically referring to the indigenously manufactured ones. They are not assembled; they are manufactured here and it is one of the best units in the country and we should be proud of it. So, there is no question of stocks. Some manufacturers are facing difficulties, whether it is due to price or whether it is due to taxation or whether it is due to some other reasons and we will have to go into that. It will be the endeavour of our Ministry to review the position from time to time. The hon. Member referred to Hindustan traders; somehow or other he may blame me but to my mind they have stopped manufacturing; I do not know why. There is no lack of demand but obviously there are some problems either financial or managerial because of which they had to stop their manufacture.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : You refer to your own report, the report of the Tractor Prices Inquiry Committee, and they will give all the answers there. Put it on the Table of the House so that everybody will know about it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Basically there is nothing wrong in our approach but if some hon. Members have any suggestions to make, if they want to make any modifications in the approach, we have always an open mind. Our approach is in the interests of the country, in the

interests of the nation and at the same time designed to see that the farmers do not suffer for lack of tractors. One more point I would like to add. He said because of pressure from some country, communist or otherwise, Government has taken this decision. *(Interruptions)*. . . We do not take decisions under pressure of anybody, any international agency or any foreign country. We have taken decision on merit.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Always under Russian pressure.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We take decisions on the basis of our national interests.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni. Please be brief. We have already taken twenty-five minutes and only one member has finished.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : (Maharashtra) : Sir, I was clubbed with Mr. Goray.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You were not in your seat when your turn came and I was told that you would like to ask a little later. <

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : I wanted that I should not be left out.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have just come in; it is good for you to follow what is happening. I will call you later.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : All right, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARANI (Maharashtra) : Sir, the hon. Minister has now assured that they are giving all assistance to the indigenous tractor industry. We all desire that the indigenous tractor industry should not be discriminated and indiscriminate imports should not be allowed but may I know from the hon. Minister one thing ? This involves the basic problem of development of agriculture and prices of inputs and services required for the purpose. Has the Ministry applied its mind and taken adequate care ? Due to various imposts, particularly fertilizer duty, tractor duty and other duties the prices of inputs

are rising and there are various indications that they will rise further. While safeguarding the tractor industry the basic point is that agricultural services have to be cheaper if you want to produce more and compete in the world. For that purpose may I know whether the Ministry of Agriculture will try with the Ministry of Finance to lower the duties on tractors, fertilizers and pesticides? Otherwise, I only want to warn you that there is a move going on that the duties should be increased because there is a mistaken impression on the part of various radicals that all agriculturists are rich; it is not a fact.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I am glad that there is some sense on that side.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : You have got all the sense but not relevance.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : You will see what relevance there is in a few years.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I was asking these two questions, and along with it I wanted to know whether it is a fact that you are going to allow certain imports and whether they are in the range of 25 to 50. The East European country which is going to supply these tractors has not fulfilled the obligation and the Agriculture Ministry will have to be careful; otherwise this country and the farmers will suffer. There is the last point I wanted to know about, and it is particularly about the credit facilities for purchase of agricultural tractors. Mr. Goray said that 7,000 tractors are lying stocked. I do not know if the quality is bad and therefore there is no demand for it. Now the first flash of bank nationalisation is gone. Now a tractor being worth Rs. 40,000/ there are various delays in giving credit. So will the Ministry take an integrated approach to problems confronting agricultural development, not merely confined to supporting indigenous industries?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I am thankful to the hon. Member for making very valuable suggestions. Infact, Indian agriculture today suffers for lack of adequate draught power, and one of the reasons why our productivity is low is be-

cause we have no adequate draught power. The poor farmers cannot own bullocks, and without bullocks the land cannot be properly cultivated. -So there is obviously the need for cultivation of adequate draught power through power machines, etc. and therefore, every step will have to be taken in future to see that the inputs, whether they are fertilizers, agricultural machinery or other, are encouraged, and from that point whatever suggestions have been made by the hon. Member, we will see to what extent we can take them up with other Ministries, etc. Ultimately, whatever decisions are taken, they are decisions of the Government as a whole. But it will be our endeavour to convince the other Ministries of the desirability of not making the inputs too costly, because that affects agricultural production ultimately.

As far as credit is concerned, to my mind that is also one of the things which comes in the way. If credit-giving is not streamlined, if easy credit is not available, the purchase of tractors also is adversely affected. That is one of the points where the commercial bank, the Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry may review the position. Also we shall review the position of co-operative banks, see what are their difficulties, and our effort would be to see that the procedure is simplified and easy credit is made available for agricultural inputs including agricultural machinery.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether what I say presently is correct? So far as the total production of these tractors is concerned, it is some where near 33,000 in the course of the last four years and in 1972-73, even with the best of efforts, it may stand at the same 33,000 are at the most it may go up to 34,000 according to the present schedule. There is also the indigenous production of tractors which is also feeding the agricultural demand, by and large to the satisfaction of the agriculturists. Now, Sir, we have a surplus of 7,000 to 10,000 tractors for the last four years. Last year we had a surplus of 10,000 on a year-to-year basis. In view of this why has Government decided to import tractors baffles me, even though the hon. Minister has tried to explain away why they are thinking of im-

[Shri Babubhai M. Chinai.]

porting tractors. Sir, if the indigenous industry is not in a position to deliver the goods, I can quite understand your importing it. If the indigenous tractors are not good, if the farmers are against using them, I can understand it. Here the question is that there are certain other difficulties which face the manufacturers, and therefore this surplus is going on. The hon. Minister pointed out about the Masseys. No doubt Masseys are more in demand—there is no doubt about it—and there is a premium of Rs. 8,000 on each Massey, and there is a line for it. It may be superior to other tractors. But is that a criterion why other manufacturers should be barred, their labour should become unemployed and therefore a kind of stagnation should be brought about in their activities? Now, several people manufacture several things. One may manufacture the best quality. In another's manufacture the quality may be a little less, may be inferior also. All the same, all told, we have to take into consideration whether the industry is in a position to deliver the goods or not. The hon. Minister made a sweeping statement in reply to Mr. Goray's enquiry that they are only importing tractors of 20 to 50 h. p. and above. Am I right?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : 20-25 and 50 and above Excluding those which are manufactured here.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Now the point is : these 20 to 50 h. p. tractors, who are taking these? They are taken by farmers, but they cannot use it all.

They have to give it on hire during the season and off-season to small people who have got ten acres, eight acres or five acres and that is how they make up the price and give back the loan to the bank. They have to give back their loan. In fact, they meet a part of the payment from these hire charges. The present position is that the indigenous tractor manufacturers have to pay ten per cent excise duty, ten per cent sales tax and also *excise* duty and sales tax on the components which they buy from the small-scale industry. Some of them they may be importing parts also. So, the overall cost

becomes so high that it is difficult to pay. Therefore, we have to find a remedy so that the indigenous industry can run smoothly and produce more and it would be cheaper. The other way is to spend foreign exchange which is very dear to this country at present. It can be utilised for other things. We are utilising this foreign exchange to kill our own industry which is coming up slowly. It may not be up to the expectations of the hon. Minister or mine or any other Member of the House but one thing is certain. If they are not in a position to fulfil the requirements of the country. Then there are 10,000 unsold tractors in the country. In spite of that if the hon. Minister says 'No' and their policy is to import it, we have not understood it. Under the circumstances, may I know give the hon. Minister four or five small suggestions? One, increase import duty on completely built up tractors and either completely remove or substantially reduce the customs and import levies on components imported by established tractor industry. Two, either completely remove excise duty on indigenously produced tractors or place a ceiling of Rs. 1,000 excise duty irrespective of price and h. p. of tractors. Three, reduce State sales tax on tractors produced in India as has been done in the State of Punjab. In most States the sales tax varies from 3 per cent to 7 per cent on tractor sale price to the farmer irrespective of whether Indian produced or imported. Punjab is the only State which has placed 3 per cent sales tax on imported tractors and only 1 per cent on tractors produced in the country. This system should be recommended for universal adoption by all States. Four, to improve upon the tractor demand and also to help the crash programme for high-level agricultural production, loan-, for the purchase of tractors must be freely available without calling for mortgage of landed property in addition to tractors as security. This is being done today by the banks. They are asking the farmer to mortgage his land, on which he depends, to buy a tractor. I can understand their asking for the tractor to be mortgaged, but not the land. Finally, most of the tractor-owners are hiring out tractors to very small farmers who can expeditiously carry out the cultivation programme and recoup a part of the large damage caused by drought in several States. The revenue losses on account of

elimination or reduction of import levies, customs duties and excise on Indian produced tractors can be recovered by enhancing the import duty and sales tax etc. on completely built-up imported tractors.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, please finish. At this rate you may take half an hour.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Half a minute. I will not take more. Those who require imported tractors must be made to pay a higher price as in the case of imported automobiles and, finally, where is the necessity of import? who has demanded it?

SHRI RANBIR SINGH (Haryana) : Farmers of this country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister will reply.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Indigenous tractors are lying idle. I only want to say if farmers want imported ones, why should there be ten thousand tractors in the country lying idle? I can understand farmers may require Massey tractors. How is it that imported tractors are being asked for by farmers? It is simply because I think there is a kind of feeling in the minds of the public that an imported thing is always good and an indigenous thing is not, not only in the case of tractors but in respect of many other things also. Therefore, I beseech the hon. Minister to kindly reshape his policy completely ban imports and see that the indigenous industry is not affected.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, by and large the problems of manufacture of tractors are attended to by the Ministry of Industrial Development. My Ministry is mainly a consumer Ministry. That means if we want tractors for agriculture, we depend upon indigenous manufacture or import. I do not know why the hon. Member got the impression and I did not mean when I made some observations that our indigenous tractor manufacturing industry is not coming up well. In fact I would like to clarify. There is bound to be some quality difference from manufacturer to manufacturer. The point I was going to submit is that by and large—there are very few indigenous manufacturers, half a dozen or so—by and large I must say I know

something of the tractor industry and I can say that the tractor industry is coming up well. It needs to be encouraged. Even if sometimes we insist on quality, there should be no resistance. That will help our tractor manufacturers to sell their products easily. Sometimes even on the floor of the House if some hon. Members raise the quality question, I think they should not be discouraged or criticised adversely.

Regarding some of the suggestions the hon. Member made about taxation etc., I would like to submit for his information that there is a very heavy duty on imported tractors, almost 45 to 46 per cent. (*Interruption*). The whole approach of the Government of India is that import should be discouraged and indigenous manufacture should be encouraged. That is why a much heavier duty is imposed on imported tractors.

There are other points about credit, about sales tax, etc. I think these are suggestions for action. They can be debated, and it will be the endeavour of my Ministry to go into them. There is an Agriculture Machinery Board under my Chairmanship. We propose to convene a meeting of the Board on which the Agro-Industries Corporation and concerned Ministries are represented. We propose to review the entire question.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : They are making money out of it, Rs. 4 crores.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I think he need not carry this impression. We want to encourage indigenous production. Our decisions would be such as would encourage indigenous production so that only the gap would be made up by imports.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Why not have a factory for it?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The HMT has started production at Pinjore.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) : I would like to refer to the answer given in this House about the selling prices of tractors. It was stated on behalf of the Government that information about the selling prices of tractors in the international mar-

[Dr. Bhai Mahavir]

ket was not available with the Government. I would like to know, when you decide to import or when you import actually, how you go about the job of importing. Do you propose to call global tenders and import tractors from the cheapest source available or you have some other idea of taking a decision on the source of the import? Why I ask this is because I would like to be enlightened on whether it is a fact that last year within a period of something like seven months there was a rise in the prices of imported tractors to the extent of something like Rs. 40 (10 per piece), and because of that just in one deal of 120 tractors or so which were imported or at least planned to be imported by the Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation an amount of Rs. 1.20 crores in excess of the price which had prevailed in the market a few months earlier was to have been drained out of India, because of the excess price being charged by some western exporters like IMT and one or two others. I want to know whether such a price rise was permitted by the Government and whether corresponding to that a similar price rise was permitted to the indigenous producers of tractors also during the course of last year, near about the middle of 1971.

Thirdly, is it a fact that at the time when these tractors were imported under the World Bank credit scheme and imported at a price which was Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 in excess of the price prevailing earlier, there had been no increase in the international price, competitive price, of tractors and only some producers had increased the price of their products? Thirdly, is it not also a fact that the demand in this country for these smaller Russian tractors was there more than for the western tractors which had increased their prices and, if so, how is it that these tractors were imported which actually were not corresponding to the demand of the farmers.

The hon. Minister made some statement about the shortage of draft power. I would like to know whether any assessment has been made of the likely effect of this on the demand for tractors because of our land reform measures. If we go about seriously and implement those land reform measures,

what will be the effect of that on the demand for tractors because the farms will be reduced in size? Will we have the same size of tractor demand as we have had during these previous years,

Lastly, when you talk of the draft power and when you say that some farmers are too poor to purchase even a bullock, do you expect that a farmer who is not in a position to purchase even a bullock would be in a position to purchase a tractor and, if not, do you visualise some sort of collectivisation of the farms in order to solve that problem?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I think Dr. Bhai Mahavir has travelled too far and I would reply to him from the end because I do not know why he is bringing in collectivisation and other things. When I say that tractors are not intended to be purchased by the small farmers, our whole idea is—there is experience also where predominantly small holdings are concerned—that customer service centres should be the order of the day. That is our idea. That means the Agro-Industries Corporations. We are trying to encourage the Agro-Industries Corporations, the private enterprise and the unemployed engineers to establish such customer service centres so that the small farmers who are not able to make immediate payment can easily get tractors for ploughing their farms. In fact, my own understanding is that land ceiling should not adversely affect the demand for tractors. Perhaps, the horse-power range—that would be the demand pattern—would change. For instance, Japan is one of the countries of the world which has the lowest holdh g, like East UP, 84 per cent of farms in Japan use power tillers. The horse-power range is different. The horse-power may undergo a change. But, as I said, there is a growing demand for tractors in this country, we have not touched the fringe of the problem.

As far as power machinery for agriculture is concerned, for our multiple and double cropping, for proper cultivation of land, etc. machinery is required and therefore I do not apprehend any downward trend as far as the demand in the domestic field is concerned. There may be some fears in the minds of some people. But generally the trend should not be affected.

Then the hon. Member asked whether we are going to invite global tenders, I would like to submit that we do not want to be indiscriminate, we would only import those tractors for which there is a manufacturing programme earlier in the country. By and large, this would be our approach. There would be an inter-Ministerial Committee which goes into this matter and comes to some assessment on the basis of some broad information available to them and we do not like the private parties to import. We import them only through public sector organisations like the STC.

As far as international price is concerned, I do not know why he has mentioned about it. There has been a general price rise in the world. As far as the price rise of indigenous tractors is concerned, because of rise in prices of raw materials, the prices have gone up and we find that it was not even found profitable for the indigenous manufacturers to manufacture more tractors. They were incurring heavy losses. Even one of the concerns, Massey Fergusson, was incurring heavy losses. Therefore, the pricing was given on the basis of certain principles.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dahyabhai Patel.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : One point remains—the price rise in the Agro-Industries . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Always one point remains.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : There was a price rise of something like four thousand to five thousand rupees per tractor . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have replied to that.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : . . . in the import by the Agro-Industries Corporation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have already replied.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : You have not said about it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Sir, has the Government completely made up

its mind that the Indian tractor industry is to survive and progress or are they of two minds ? As for instance, only two days back we had a debate' on the taking over of the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Has the Government any intention of taking over the tractor plants after putting them into difficulty ? I am saying this well advised. The Minister knows that I do not make a statement without knowing things as they are. In this very House, Sir, I had reason to criticise the Ministry of Industrial Development and call it the Ministry for Industrial Destruction primarily because of the treatment he was giving to tractor manufacturers and the step-motherly treatment given to certain industries and the favour shown to others. This has been brought out very well in the report of the Tractor Prices Enquiry Committee, which is a departmental committee of the Government. Will the Minister lay that report on the Table of the House ? It will give many startling disclosures.

As regards tractors and farmers with the present policy of the Government limiting holdings, may I know which farmer will remain in a position to own a tractor ?

SHRI RANBIR SINGH : Lakhs and lakhs.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I am not asking the ex-Minister of a State. I am asking the Central Minister which farmer will be able to own a tractor. If the Government's intention is to prevent farmers from owning tractors and they want only service units to own tractors let them come out with a statement telling the farmers that this is their new policy. It is not fair to make people purchase tractors or even manufacture tractors without telling them that this is going to be the policy of the future. Therefore, I would like the Government to make themselves clear on this point.

The next point I would like to know is how many tractors like the useless German tractors this Government is going to import, or have they formally made up their mind that no tractors are to be imported. I can understand large size tractors being brought in for earth work or for the use of the army.

[Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel]

That is a different thing altogether. Will the hon'ble Minister enlighten us ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I do not know if I shall be in a position to convince the hon'ble Member because he has very strong views on certain matters, specially when you look at certain issues through a particular spectacle. For instance the question of taking over may be addressed to the Ministry of Industrial Development. But to my mind there is no intention whatsoever. In fact, as I said earlier, the Government's effort is to encourage indigenous manufacture of tractors. The import programme I have explained in detail that we are going to import only those tractors for which there is already a manufacture programme. Then, his figure has been based on the last estimate. About price why he is feeling . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : That is the crux of the matter. You have got the report of the Tractor Prices Enquiry Committee . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I would like to know from Mr. Patel why one of the concerns with which he has close association is being closed.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : That question does not arise at all. You mentioned it. I did not mention it.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : The question is is he going to lay it on the Table ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : The matter is of considerable importance. He should place the report on the Table of the House. Why does he not lay it on the Table ? Do you have any difficulty ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Suraj Prasad.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Either he must say "No" or he must say "Yes".

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : You should allow Members to put questions. The Minister must answer the question. What is his reaction to that question ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has already answered. He says "No".

SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA : On a point of order. Do you approve of the Minister sitting in his seat and nodding his head and taking that nodding as his reply in the negative ? I must have your ruling on the matter. Let him stand up and say "No". Let it go on record.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : It is an official report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All official reports are not placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : The official report has been submitted and we have a right to look into that paper.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : May I be allowed to say one sentence ? This question relates to the Ministry of Industrial Development and may be put to that Ministry.

श्री सुरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : जो हमको अभी इंफार्मेशन है उसमें रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया ने जो अध्ययन किया है रूरल इकोनामिक्स का, उसका कहना है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर 140 मिलियन हेक्टेयर जमीन है और उसकी जुताई के लिए 112 मिलियन हॉर्स पावर की जरूरत है और अभी तक 28 मिलियन हॉर्स पावर ट्रैक्टर सप्लाई करता है और शेष जो पावर की जरूरत है उसकी सप्लाई होती है जानवरों के जरिये से तो ऐसी हालत में हिन्दुस्तान में ट्रैक्टर की जो मांग है उसकी कोई तुलना नहीं की जा सकती। जहाँ तक हम को खबर है, हिन्दुस्तान में हर साल 90 हजार ट्रैक्टरों की जरूरत है और यहाँ ट्रैक्टर पैदा करने वाले जो कारखाने हैं वह सिर्फ 16 हजार ट्रैक्टर उत्पादन करते हैं जबकि उन की उत्पादन क्षमता 18 हजार ट्रैक्टर हर साल की है। लेकिन जो बहुत सी ट्रैक्टर बेचने वाली एजेंसियाँ हैं उन के यहाँ इस साल 40 हजार ट्रैक्टर्स का रजिस्ट्रेशन हुआ है उन लोगों द्वारा जो देसी ट्रैक्टर चाहते हैं, और जो विदेशी

ट्रैक्टर चाहने वाले हैं वैसे 27 हजार लोगों ने रजिस्ट्रेशन कराया है। इस प्रकार इस समय देश में 70 हजार ट्रैक्टर की जरूरत है रजिस्ट्रेशन के मुताबिक और देश में इस समय पैदा होते हैं केवल 16 हजार ट्रैक्टर और माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि हम विदेश से सिर्फ 20 हजार ट्रैक्टर मंगाना चाहते हैं। ऐसी हालत में मांग और सप्लाई में बहुत बड़ा फर्क रह जाता है। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा माननीय मंत्री से कि यह मांग और सप्लाई के बीच में जो खाई है उस को पाटने के लिए उन के सामने क्या तस्वीर है? दूसरी बात,

श्री उपसभापति : बस, एक ही बात पूछिये।

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : और लोगों ने तो दस दस सवाल पूछे हैं। मैं जल्दी ही खत्म करता हूँ।

दूसरी बात यह कि ट्रैक्टर और उन के पार्ट्स की कीमतें बहुत ज्यादा हैं और 20 परसेंट तो एक्साइज ड्यूटी उन के उपर है। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो सरकारी एक्साइज ड्यूटी है क्या वह उस को कम करेगी ताकि किसानों को सहायित से कम दाम पर ट्रैक्टर मिल सके?

तीसरी बात यह है कि बैंक से क्रेडिट मिलता है और साथ ही साथ लैंड मार्टगेज बैंक से कर्ज मिलता है किसानों को ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिए। लेकिन लैंड मार्टगेज बैंक से दस वर्ष की क़िश्त पर रुपया मिलता है और नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक से 5 वर्ष की क़िश्त पर कर्ज मिलता है और यह इन दोनों में अंतर्विरोध है। तो क्या इस बीच के अंतर्विरोध को मिटाने के लिए मंत्री जी कोई प्रयास करेंगे क्योंकि 5 वर्ष की क़िश्त किसानों के लिए बहुत ही असुविधाजनक है और इस लिए उस को दस वर्ष की होना चाहिए।

सरकार ने जो एग्रो इंडस्ट्रियल कारपोरेशन बनाये उन का उद्देश्य यही था कि वह सिर्फ ट्रैक्टर ही नहीं बेचेंगे बल्कि देश में ट्रैक्टर बनायेंगे। यह उन का उद्देश्य था, जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कहीं इस तरह का प्रोग्राम रखा है, जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा कि एच०एम०टी० ट्रैक्टर पैदा कर रहा है, इसी तरह देश में जो एग्रो इंडस्ट्री की सर्विस हर राज्य में हुई है क्या वे ट्रैक्टर बनाने की योजना अपने सामने रखते हैं?

और मेरा अंतिम क्वेश्चन यह है कि सभी लोगों ने यह प्रश्न उठाया है कि ट्रैक्टर जो होते हैं वे बड़े खेतों में चलेंगे इसमें कोई शक नहीं। जितने भी रिच फार्मर्स हैं वही ट्रैक्टर खरीद रहे हैं, दो, तीन, चार एकड़ का खेत रखने वाले ट्रैक्टर नहीं खरीद सकते हैं और देश के अंदर 75 प्रतिशत ऐसे किसान हैं जिन के पास 5 एकड़ तक की खेती है। ऐसी अवस्था में क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करती है कि वालंटरी बेसिस पर कोऑपरेटिव का ऑर्गेनाइजेशन किया जाय ताकि छोटे छोटे जो किसान हैं या मध्यम दर्जे के किसान हैं वह ट्रैक्टर खरीद सकें और उसे खरीद करके अपनी खेती का विकास कर सकें। वय।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : About the estimates of tractor demand, as I said, the National Council of Applied Economic Research has been entrusted with the study. It is going into the estimates of demand, the problems of credit, taxes, etc. As I have earlier already replied to these queries, these are now at the most suggestions of the honourable Member which can be taken note of. Then about the Agro Industries Corporation taking up the manufacturing programmes, I think there seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of the honourable Member. The intention is not that every Agro Industries Corporation should take up the manufacturing programme. As should be known to the honourable Member manufacture of tractors is highly capital intensive and in fact, one of the weaknesses ' of our country's economic . . .

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Tractor is in the small-scale sector now.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Why don't you listen to me ? Whether in the public sector or in the private sector, unless we manufacture tractors or power-killers on a very big scale where the economics of scale would operate, the cost of production would be very high, the quality would not be adequate. Therefore, the main purpose of the Agro Industries Corporation is to establish service centres, encourage mechanisation to meet the requirements of spares and other agricultural machinery—that means, to serve the larger interests of the farmers in the States in the field of agricultural machinery, etc. For that purpose the Government of India is encouraging the Agro Industries Corporation.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN (Tamil nadu) : I want specific answers to my specific questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have been very lax with Members. Hereafter I will allow only one question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : From my party nobody has participated. Therefore, you will have to allow me. May I know from the honourable Minister whether it is a fact that there are about 25,000 imported tractors lying idle in the country for want of components for so many years ? I think that question has also been answered last year in the House. I do not know what the position is now. If it is not right, may you be pleased to give the figure of tractors awaiting components ? Also I would like to know whether there are domestic units created for the manufacture of components for these tractors. It is also accepted by the Minister and also by some honourable friends here that there are about 10,000 tractors being produced in the country domestically, but they do not find a market. May I not ask you, Mr. Minister, that it is due to the exorbitant cost of production that is being manufactured domestically because of the taxation policy? Your policy is, there is a feeling in the country, to equalise by taxation the cost of production of indigenous products on a par with the imported tractors so that the

farmers of the country will go in for the imported tractors instead of the domestic products. Finally I should like to know whether you are not curtailing the employment potential by importing tractors from foreign countries, instead of encouraging domestic production—thereby unemployment is increasing in the country.

SHRI ANHUSAHEB SHINDE : If we take the last question of the honourable Member, whether the interests of local employment as far as tractor manufacture is concerned, . . .

(Interruption)

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It has been happening for the last fifteen years.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I would repeat that import is a temporary phase. Only so long as there is a wide gap between the indigenous manufacture and the demand to fill up that gap we would be importing. As I said earlier, I do not know whether the honourable Member was there or not when I earlier had replied to this question, our whole emphasis is to encourage indigenous production; our requirements will not be fully and adequately met unless we depend upon our indigenous production. Our effort is in that direction. As regards spare parts for tractors—he gave some figure, I do not know wherefrom he obtained the figure—the tractors which were purchased 20 years ago or 30 years ago, I do not think even the honourable Member would feel that they should work still. In my view that type of tractors are absolutely out of date. And in those countries where they were manufactured, even there they are no longer manufactured. As far as the recently manufactured tractors which are imported into this country are concerned, for them there is no difficulty in getting spare parts. A very liberal policy is there in that regard. The Agro Industries Corporation is expected to take adequate stock

of these. If they are not available, I P.M. they can immediately send an intimation to us. Government of India immediately allows import. There is no difficulty about spare parts for any genuine tractor owner or Agro Industries Corporation. As far as indigenous manufacture is concerned, I have earlier given the figures to the House.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : About the policy of the Government to equalise...

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have replied to that.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, आप बड़े गौर से सुने होंगे बाबू भाई चिनाई के सवाल को और मंत्री महोदय के जवाब को। उनमें यह साफ जाहिर है, यह सरकार और इस देश के उद्योगपति दोनों मिलकर किस तरह से किसानों का शोषण कर रहे हैं और आगे भी करना चाहते हैं। श्री बाबू भाई चिनाई का कहना है कि भाई, आप इम्पोर्ट क्यों करते हो, उद्योगपतियों को छूट दे रखो किसानों का जितना भी शोषण करना चाहें करें। रद्दी से रद्दी ट्रैक्टर बना कर, चाहे उसकी लागत 10,000 रु० हो, बेचो उसको 40,000 रु० में। उसके जवाब में मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं, उनके साथ पूरी सहानुभूति व्यक्त करते हुए, कि हमारी बड़ी सहानुभूति आपके वर्ग से हैं और इसलिए मैंने 40 से 50 परसेन्ट तक की इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगा रखी है। इस आधार पर देश के उद्योगपति अपने माध्यम से किसानों का शोषण कर रहे हैं और सरकार भी उन किसानों का शोषण कर रही है, 40 से 50 फीसदी तक ट्रैक्टर पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगा कर। उसके बावजूद यह दम भरती है किसानों के सहयोगी होन की और कृषि की उन्नति की बात करने की और कहती है कि हम तो हर तरह की सहायता दे रहे हैं किसानों को कि वह अन्न का उत्पादन बढ़ाएं और देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाएं।

श्री उपसभापति : आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, कहा गया है कि 10,000 इम्पोर्टेड ट्रैक्टर्स बिक नहीं रहे हैं। क्यों नहीं बिक रहे हैं, अगर मंत्री महोदय उसकी जांच करें, तो जाहिर होगा वह ऐसे ट्रैक्टर हैं।

श्री रणबीरसिंह : जो अनपापुलर है।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : जो अनपापुलर हैं, बहुत ज्यादा होस-पावर के हैं। आप जाकर दुकानों में देखें, कोई ट्रैक्टर जो 20-25 हास पावर का है वह उपलब्ध नहीं है, जो ट्रैक्टर 50 हास पावर के ऊपर के है वह आज तक घरा हैं शो रूम में, कोई उनका ग्राहक नहीं है और सही मानी में ग्राहक नहीं है। दाम उनके इतने ज्यादा हैं कि कोई नहीं लेता। ये जो इम्पोर्टर्स हैं ये आंख मूंद कर इम्पोर्ट किए हैं ताकि अधिक से अधिक मुनाफा कमाएं। वे इस बात का खयाल नहीं करते हैं कि किसान लोगों को किस प्रकार के ट्रैक्टर की आवश्यकता है।

श्रीमन्, आप देखेंगे ये लोग अपनी कितनी गलत दलील देते हैं। देश के सारे एग्री इंडस्ट्रीज से आप जांच करा लें—मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बात बता रहा हूँ—चार-चार पांच-पांच साल से लोग तीन-तीन हजार रुपए और पांच-पांच हजार रुपए एडवान्स देकर अपना आर्डर बुक किए हैं, आज उन को ट्रैक्टर उपलब्ध नहीं है, और ऐसे लोगों की संख्या हजारों में है। किसान परेशान है। चार-चार पांच-पांच लाख रु० पर सूद नहीं देता है एग्री इंडस्ट्रीज कार-पोरेशन। यह परेशानी किसान के सामने है। तब भी उद्योगपति अपना ट्रैक्टर बनाने को तैयार नहीं। अच्छा ट्रैक्टर बनाएंगे नहीं, इम्पोर्ट होने नहीं देंगे। और सरकार अपने इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी की बात करेगी और ऐसा काम करेगी ताकि उनको करोड़ों करोड़ों रु० ड्यूटी की मिलें और वे अपना मनमानी ढंग से खर्च करें।

मैं श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार की नीति किसान हितकारी नीति होगी। या किसान नष्टकारी नीति होगी? अगर सचमुच में सरकार किसानों का हित चाहती है, तो उसको अपना यह लक्ष्य बनाना चाहिये कि चाहे देशी ट्रैक्टर बचाये जाए या विदेशों से ट्रैक्टर मंगाये जाए, दोनों के दाम कम होने

[श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही]

चाहिये ताकि किसान उनको खरीदकर उपयोग कर सके। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान में बाजारों में जो ट्रैक्टर हैं, उनके जो दाम बढ़े हुए हैं, उन दामों को कम करने की बात सोचेंगे ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप कोई इस तरह की पाबन्दी लगायेंगे जिसके द्वारा किसानों को छोटे ट्रैक्टर उपलब्ध हो सकें। तीसरी बात यह है कि क्या गरीब किसानों के लिए सरकार की ओर से हर ताल्लुक के अन्दर ट्रैक्टर डिपो खोलेंगे, जहाँ से वे किराये पर ट्रैक्टर ले जा सकें और पुर्जों बगैरह भी खरीद सकें ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, many of the queries I have earlier replied. In fact, with regard to the figure which has been given of tractors lying in the stocks of the Agro-Industries Corporations, for instance, I have even some tentative figure as on 15th August, 1972 and in respect of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Mysore, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madras, etc., the total comes to 2223 which includes RS-C9 tractors from the GDR which I mentioned earlier. In respect of Haryana, West Bengal, Meghalaya, etc., the figures are not available with me. The total figure may be about 3,000 or so.

Then, Sir, as far the import duty is concerned, I have explained the Government's viewpoint. The Government has deliberately put a heavier import duty on the imported tractors in order to encourage indigenous manufacture and to discourage their import.

As far as the general price structure is concerned, I think, in India, unless there is a very large scale of production of tractors, it would be very difficult to bring down the prices. So this aspect will have to be borne in mind. Our units are, compared to the units elsewhere in the world, are very tiny units and, therefore, large-scale manufacture will have to be encouraged, I think, both in the private and public sectors and,

I hope, with economies effected, there will be cheaper tractors available.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Ye*, Mr. Yadav.

श्री श्यामलाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जो देश में ट्रैक्टर बन रहे हैं, चूँकि उनकी गुणात्मक क्षमता ठीक नहीं है, इसलिए उनकी खपत नहीं हो रही है। तो क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा तरीका बनाया है या बनाने का विचार है कि स्वदेश में जो ट्रैक्टर निर्मित होते हैं उनकी गुणात्मक क्षमता में नियंत्रण रखा जा सके और बाजार में रद्दी किस्म के ट्रैक्टर न आ सकें जिसके कारण किसानों को नुकसान न उठाना पड़े ? आज जो इस तरह के ट्रैक्टर बाजार में लोग नहीं ले रहे हैं उसका कारण यह है कि उनका परफॉर्मेंस अच्छा नहीं है और इसलिए रद्दी किस्म के ट्रैक्टर लोग लेने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अभी मंत्री जी ने ट्रैक्टरों के सम्बन्ध में जो बात कही, मैं उसकी तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। अभी हमारे देश में जोतबन्दी की सीमा निर्धारित हो रही है उसके कारण 25 हास पावर्स से कम के ट्रैक्टरों की माँग बढ़ती चली जा रही है और आप जो ट्रैक्टर्स इम्पोर्ट करने जा रहे हैं वे इसी हिसाब से किये जाने चाहिए और इसके साथ ही साथ पावर टिलर का भी इम्पोर्ट किया जाना चाहिए; अगर पावर टिलर्स के इम्पोर्ट की स्कीम आपकी नहीं है, तो आपको इस चीज को भी इम्पोर्ट करना चाहिए क्योंकि इसकी माँग भी किसानों में बढ़ते चली जा रही है।

एग्रो इण्डस्ट्रियल कारपोरेशन के सम्बन्ध में एक बात निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उनके कार्य की जो प्रगति है वह असन्तोषजनक है। विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश में जो हमें जानकारी मिली है कि वहाँ पर एग्रो इण्डस्ट्रियल कारपोरेशन का काम जो पहले ही खराब चल रहा

था, अब और भी खराब हो गया है और ऐसा अनुमान किया जाता है कि वह अगले कुछ वर्षों में समाप्त हो जायेगा। मूल्यों में अव्यवस्थित रूप से जो वृद्धि की जा रही है इस ख्याल से कि उत्पादन बढ़ सके, तो मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मूल्यों को नहीं घटाया जाता तो उनकी खपत कम हो जाएगी। आप विदेशों से ट्रैक्टर इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं और अगर देश में बने हुए ट्रैक्टरों के मूल्य को घटावेंगे तो यहां के लोगों को ज्यादा प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा, यहां के लोग यहां के बने ट्रैक्टर खरीदेंगे और इस तरह से विदेशी मुद्रा भी बचेगी।

तीसरी बात जो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि बैंकों से किसानों को ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिए जो ऋण दिया जाता है उसके लिए ट्रैक्टर को ही रखना रखा जाना चाहिए और उन्हें अपनी सम्पत्ति या दूसरी चीज को गिराने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। इस तरह की जो बात हो रही है वह गलत बात है।

आखिर में मैं एक ही सुझाव और देना चाहता हूँ। देश में ट्रैक्टर पड़े हुए हैं, आप बाहर से भी इम्पोर्ट करते हैं, यह क्षमता भी है, उसकी पूरी खपत नहीं हो रही है, एग्रो इंडस्ट्रियल कारपोरेशन या ट्रैक्टरों के पास बहुत बड़ी सख्या में लोगों ने रजिस्टर्ड करा रखा है और रुपया भी जमा कर रखा है और, जैसा गोरे जी ने कहा, बहुत जगह फर्मी भी दर्ज कराए होंगे। तो इन तमाम मामलों की जांच के लिए क्या सरकार एक संसदीय समिति बैठाएगी जो इन बातों की जांच करे ताकि ट्रैक्टरों का मूल्य कम हो और जो दूसरी कठिनाइयाँ हैं वे भी कम हो सकें ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the Government has taken note of the views expressed by the hon. Member on the floor of the House, and I do not think there is any need to set up a Parliamentary Committee for this. As far as power tillers are

concerned, the Government has licensed a number of units which manufacture power tillers in this country, and some of the units are coming up—though very slowly.

As far as his suggestion to review the working of the Agro-Industries Corporation is concerned, the Government reviews annually the working of the Corporation, and will review the working of U. P. Agro-Industries Corporation also. But my impression is that this is one of the good corporations. There are some defects in all organizations. We shall go into that matter. !

I have made a note of other points raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu) : We are now discussing the production of tractors, indigenous or imported from foreign countries. My point is regarding the distribution in continuation of production. This I am saying from my personal experience. In States; the Agro-Industries Corporations are distributing. To get a tractor, it will take years. They register the applications and after ten or eleven months they are asked to pay the first instalment. It is more than one year or one and a half years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to avoid that delay in distributing tractors which are available indigenously or are imported from foreign countries.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : For both imported tractors and indigenously manufactured tractors, as far as distribution is concerned, there is a Tractor (Control) Order now, and under that Order certain forms have been prescribed. One has to apply on those prescribed forms and deposit a certain amount either with the agents of indigenous manufacturers or, if it is imported, with the Agro-Industries Corporation. If tractors are available, there is no delay at all because that Order does not envisage any delay. But if the suggestion of the hon. Member is that the Tractor (Control) Order is too much complicated, perhaps that can be a suggestion which can be looked into.

DR. M. K. WAS (Maharashtra) : May I know from the hon. Minister whether two years ago a survey was made of the requirements of tractors in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, to the tune of 22,000 tractors, and for a part of it later on tenders were issued through the World Bank ? Were these purchases suspended and later on it became necessary to issue fresh tenders ? For what reason the delay was there ? Will this delay cause any additional amount to India ? Secondly, I would like to know whether amongst these 20,000 tractors estimated for import, how many will be imported through the World Bank ? What are the terms under which the World Bank is going to allow the import of these tractor, it at all ? Lastly, I would like to know whether Indian manufacturers are permitted to participate in the tenders called ? I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that some of the tractors manufactured and supposed to be unsold were due to technical defects ? Would the Government of India ensure that no such tractors are foisted on the agriculturists under the pretext of indigenous manufacture ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : There is no compulsion on anybody to buy a particular type of tractor. It is for the farmer to find out what type or what make he would like to have and accordingly he is expected to put in his order.

As far as import proposals under the World Bank loan are concerned, at the moment there is a proposal for Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Mysore and Maharashtra to come forward under the World Bank loan for about 22,000 tractors. As far as my information goes, the indigenous manufacturers are not prohibited to put in their offers in this respect.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Venigalla Satyanarayana to lay on the Table...

DR. M. R. VYAS : Sir, he has not replied to the earlier part, whether two years ago a survey was made and the tenders were not accepted.

THIRD REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Third Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on Offices of Profit (Fifth Lok Sabha)

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE BILL, 1970

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Code of Criminal Procedure Bill, 1970, be further extended upto the last day of the Eighty-second Session of the Rajya Sabha."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

(i) THE SEEDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1972

(n) THE RULERS OF INDIAN STATES (ABOLITION OF PRIVILEGES) BILL, 1972

(HI) THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL, 1972

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha :—

(1)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Seeds (Amendment) Bill, 1972, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 1972."

(II)

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and