

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of tractors and other agricultural implements by the end of 1970; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The current indigenous production of tractors is of the order of 18,000 to 20,000 tractors per year, whereas the estimated demand is 70,000 Nos., in 1970-71 going up to 90,000, in 1973-74 it is not possible to bridge the wide gap between the production and the demand by the end of 1970.

#### SETTING UP OF A NEW STEEL PLANT

817. SHRI T. K. SRINIVASAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up any new steel plant in the country with the assistance of World Bank; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is at present under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

#### CONFIRMATION OF CLASS II RAILWAY OFFICERS

818. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Class II officers in the Indian Railways on the 31st December, 1969;

(b) the number out of them who have been confirmed by that date;

(c) the minimum and maximum length of service put in by those who have not been confirmed by that date-and

(d) the difficulties in confirming them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

#### RE-SURVEY FOR LINKING KANYAKUMARI AND NAGARCOIL WITH TIRUNELVELI AND TRIVANDRUM

819. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the re-survey for linking Kanyakumari and Nagercoil with Tirunelveli and Trivandrum has been finalised; and

(b) if so, whether it will be taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) Not yet.

(b) The Fourth Plan proposals have not yet been finalised. However, a decision regarding the construction of the Tirunelveli - Cape Comorin - Trivandrum *via* Nagercoil will be taken after the surveys are completed and the results thereof become known.

#### STAR INTERNATIONAL (SHIPOWNERS) LTD.

820. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any company by the-name of Star International (Shipowners) Ltd. is functioning in India;

(b) if so, who are the proprietors and where is its headquarters; and

(c) the purpose for which this company has been floated?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.