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STATEMENT RESTARTED QUESTION NO. 170 ANSWERED ON 2ND MARCH, 1970

BHILAI STEEL PLANT

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R.
BHAGAT): I place on the Table a
statement correcting reply to part (b)
of Starred Question No. 170 dated
2-3-1970. (Placed in Library. See No.
LT. 4169/70].

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

SALE OF DEFECTIVE TRACTORS IMPORTED FROM THE GDR AND REPORTED BLACK-MARKETING IN TRACTORS IMPORTED FROM RUMANIA AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

శ్రీ శ్రీ SANJANA NARAYANAPPA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the sale of defective tractors imported from the German Democratic Republic and the reported black marketing in tractors imported from Rumania and other East European countries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, on a point of order. According to your ruling and the rule, in addition to 'to the sale of' here, the word 'alleged' should be used.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Out of order. Yes. Minister

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNA SAHEB SHINDE): Mr. Chairman, Sir in December, 1968, a contract was concluded between the State Trading Corporation of India and the German Democratic Republic

suppliers for the import of 3,000 numbers of RS—09 tractors. The tractor had been tested at the Tractor Training & Testing Station, Budni and found suitable for Indian conditions. In December, 1969, certain complaints about its defective working were received from Andhra Pradesh, by then nearly 1,000 tractors had already been received and another 1,000 were on the high seas. Immediately further import was suspended and a Committee of Technical Experts was appointed to make an on-the spot study of the performance of these tractors in various States. A series of discussions were thereafter held with G.D.R. suppliers and they have agreed to replace, free of cost, defective components by new modified components in all the tractors sold to the farmers or held in stock by the Corporations. They have also agreed to extend the warranty period. In addition to the five modified tractors already under field test at different places, another tractor as finally modified by G.D.R. suppliers has been received for test at Budni.

As for reported black-marketing in tractors imported from Rumania and East European countries, Government of India have received no specific complaints. To ensure fair distribution and prevent malpractices, imported tractors are distributed to farmers through State Agro-Industries Corporation. It is true that the gap between demand and supply of tractors is wide. To bridge this gap to the extent possible, Government have decided to import 35,000 tractors against 1969-70 requirements and it is likely that an equally large number may have to be imported against the current year's requirements. The scheme for import of gift tractors has also contributed to tractor availability. Government have under active consideration the promulgation of a Control Order on Sale and Distribu-