

hope it will be possible to set up the station in Bombay by the end of 1971. So far as buying programmes from other countries is concerned we have been very careful because we have to see that the programmes are interesting. I think we have got to develop our own, what is technically called, soft ware, that is, our own talent because only those programmes will be of interest which are rooted in the soil.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : Lucknow and Kanpur are near to each other; so why not have it in Banaras?

(No reply)

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the TV sets that are now available are not of good quality? They need to be improved very much. What steps has the Government taken in this connection? It had also been said that the Government will give TV sets to Members of Parliament on instalment basis. What has happened to that?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Madam, so far as giving sets to Members of Parliament on instalment basis is concerned, the Finance has given its consent and we are now in a position to give sets to Members on instalment basis. So far as the quality of the sets is concerned I must confess that the quality of the sets now available is not up to the mark and considerable improvement is called for.

DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTED TRACTORS

*278. **SARDAR D. K. JADHAV :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tractors imported by the Central Government are passed on to the State Corporations for distribution to the cultivators through agents;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the induction of an agent between the Government of India and the State Corporation only adds to the overhead charges roughly between Rs. 500—1,000 per tractor; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to do away with the existing system of distribution through private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) The pre-

sent procedure is that imported tractors are allotted to the State Agro-Industries Corporations wherever set up, for distribution to cultivators. In States where such Corporations have not yet been established, distribution is done by the State Governments themselves.

(b) The services of private agents or erstwhile importers of certain tractors e.g., DT 14B are being utilised for providing pre-sale and installation services as well as after-sale service during the warranty period only where State Agro-Industries Corporations have not established adequate facilities of their own. The charges paid for these two services, which are Rs. 500 per tractor in the case of DT-14B tractors, are included in the selling price fixed by the STC. These are, therefore, not overhead charges.

(c) As mentioned in parts (a) and (b), distribution of tractors to cultivators is done through the Agro-Industries Corporations/State Governments and not through private agencies.

SARDAR D. K. JADHAV : The tractors which are coming are being distributed through private agencies. Definitely I know of a case. There is an agency probably in Hyderabad through which these tractors are being distributed to other States. So, the Government should come forward and take definite steps to see that no such distribution will take place in future except through the State agencies.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I must make it very clear. Perhaps the hon. Member might be referring to information of a very old period. Government has taken a firm decision that whatever tractors are imported into this country will be allotted to the Agro-Industries Corporations or the State Governments for distribution and no private agencies are in the picture either for Russian tractors or any other tractors.

DR. K. RAMIAH : May I know whether the hon. Minister can provide information on two points? How were the prices of tractors which had been charged from the customer decided? Was the Central Government consulted? In the case of the tractors imported from Czechoslovakia, one which used to cost Rs. 9,000 or so is being sold for Rs. 15,000. Another information I want is whether in the import of these tractors from different countries, there is provision made to import

spare parts also. Already the Zetor tractors which are being sold in Bangalore are not having sufficient spare parts.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as the prices are concerned, they are worked out and they are fixed. The Agro-Industries Corporations are supposed to sell these tractors at a fixed price. The price is based on the actual cost and then some margin is allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is asking about the discrepancy in price.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : That is what I say that the prices are fixed.

SHRI A. D. MANI : How are they fixed?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : These prices are fixed in consultation with the S.T.C. As far as the import prices are concerned, they are already determined by negotiations made by S.T.C. with the foreign countries concerned. As far as the spares are concerned, we are aware of the problem and we have been giving very liberal licences to the actual established importers as well as the actual users. We have given substantial licences for the import of spare parts to Agro-Industries Corporations, wherever asked for.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : These imported tractors earlier were being distributed by private agents and there was a system of registration by the farmers with these agents. Now, the same system, I understand, is also there with the Corporation. May I know when the switch-over has been made from the private agencies to the Corporation, whether the list with the private agents is being respected by the Corporation or not? Now the Corporation having become a public sector organisation, may I know whether any priority is being given to small farmers among those who are actually applying for tractors? Or, is it again that it is a case of first come, first served? What is the backlog of these tractors? What are our requirements?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is a wide question. As far as the first part of the question is concerned, when the switch-over took place, when the distribution was taken over from the private agencies and transferred to the State Agro-Industries Corporations, we requested the State Governments to take into consideration the

waiting lists with the previous distributors. That has been our suggestion to the State Government. As far as priority is concerned, we have suggested to the State Governments that five per cent of the total allotment may be made on the basis of priority at the discretion of the State Governments. We have suggested to them that co-operative societies owning land, retired military service personnel, charitable institutions and categories like that may be given preference. There is no specific preference for small farmers. It is a point for consideration. As far as the requirements are concerned, the demand for tractors in this country is growing at a very fast rate and the waiting list is nearing about 85,000 or 90,000. The waiting list is for indigenous tractors as well as for imported tractors.

कृषि विस्तार केन्द्र

* 279. **श्री राम सहाय :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रो यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गुजरात, बिहार, मैसूर और महाराष्ट्र में कृषि विस्तार केन्द्रों की स्थापना के लिए 1968-69 में जापान के साथ जिस करार पर हस्ताक्षर हुए थे उसके अधीन जापान द्वारा भारत को भेजी गयी मशीनरी तथा साज-सामान और विशेषज्ञों का व्यौरा क्या है और क्या इन केन्द्रों ने काम करना आरम्भ कर दिया है ?

†[AGRICULTURE EXTENSION CENTRES]

* 279. **SHRI RAM SAHAI :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the machinery, equipments and experts supplied by Japan to India under the agreement signed with that country in the year 1968-69 for the establishment of agriculture extension centres in Gujarat, Bihar, Mysore and Maharashtra and whether these centres have started functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : A statement is placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix LXIX, Annexure No. 57].

†[] English translation.