

**STATEMENT**

With a view to avoiding repetitive import of know-how, Government are considering the question of bringing about coordinated negotiation of collaboration agreements with foreign parties in fields where,

(i) a number of foreign collaboration agreements already exist and a new party applies for the same or similar know-how; or

(ii) where a number of new units in the same field are proposed to be set up in the country at about the same time, the object being,

(i) to reduce the outgo to foreign exchange and

(ii) to encourage indigenous research and technological development.

It is *not* the intention that Government would set up their own Central Agency or a Central Agency.]

**H. M. T. PLANT IN CEYLON**

\*323. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools propose to set up a plant in Ceylon for manufacture of machine tools ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for Hindustan Machine Tools to set up a plant in Ceylon for manufacture of machine tools. Hindustan Machine Tools propose to render technical collaboration and assistance to a Ceylonese organisation in setting up a machine tools plant in that country. At the request of the Ceylonese organisation a detailed feasibility report for a machine tool plant in Ceylon has been prepared by Hindustan Machine Tools and the details are under discussion.

**BUCKINGHAM CANAL AND COOUM RIVER**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some experts have recently been sent by Government to Madras to study the feasibility of drying up the Buckingham canal and the Cooum River for an underground railway system; and

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the experts ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b) The question of providing underground railways or other types of transport in Metropolitan cities is presently under the consideration of the Study Team on Metropolitan Transport set up by the Planning Commission. The Railways are not yet aware of the final recommendations of the Study Team in regard to Madras City.

**KARUR-DINDIGUL, MADURAI AND TUTICORIN RAILWAY LINE**

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

(a) whether the survey work on the conversion of the railway line for Karur-Dindigul-Madurai and Tuticorin from metre gauge to broad gauge has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the work is proposed to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Not yet.

(b) The Fourth Plan proposals are yet to be finalised and it is too early to say whether this proposal would be included therein.

**POLICY REGARDING AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS**

665. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present import policy regarding import of agricultural implements such as tractor ; and