

2. Broadly speaking, the projects aimed at evolving effective techniques, methods and programmes for the intensive development of small industries in selected areas with high incidence of unemployment and also to gain experience in adopting the techniques under different sets of conditions. The selection of the areas followed the criteria laid down by the Planning Commission -which are as under:

(i) areas with favourable agricultural conditions and heavy pressure of population ;

(ii) where agriculture is undertaken mainly under unirrigated conditions; and there is considerable need for additional employment;

(iii) areas with considerable unemployment because of unfavourable natural conditions and lack of development of potential resources ;

(iv) tribal and other backward areas ;

(v) areas in which large industrial projects have been or are being established, so as to achieve integrated industrial development, \ agriculture and small industries being developed together within the region of the industrial projects; and

(vi) areas in the neighbourhood of rural universities and institutes.

3. An Evaluation Study Group for "Rural Industries Projects Programme was appointed by the RIPC with a view to reviewing the various aspects of the programme and "to make suitable suggestions with regard to the development of the programme. The Study Group has laid great emphasis on the selection of areas for rural industrialisation. It has observed that location is key factor in the development of *small* industries in rural areas and if the objective is to achieve success in industrialising rural areas, selection of the areas should be made very carefully. Areas with necessary basic facilities including availability of power in key growth and focal points and good

system of transport and communications should be selected for the programme. Apart from infra-structure the other essential factors which help growth of industries are availability of local resources, agricultural, forest, animal husbandry and mineral, etc. The report of the Study Group was discussed in the previous meeting of the Rural Industries Planning Committee. Agreeing with the recommendations of the Study Group regarding selection of areas, the Committee observed that since faster growth of industries is called for, existence of essential basic facilities is absolutely necessary and the new projects should be located in such areas only which possess necessary economic and social overheads and other basic facilities conducive to the growth of industries. The Committee has, therefore, recommended that a success-oriented criteria should be laid down for the selection of new projects.

4. A proposal for setting up additional Rural Industries Projects during the Fourth Plan period is under consideration of the Government.

ALLOTMENT OF RUSSIAN TRACTORS

960. SHRI M. VERO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the approximate time taken by the State Trading Corporation to allot Russian made tractors (D.T. 14) from the date of its actual booking?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Orders for Russian made tractors DT. 14B were till now being booked by the Indian agents of the Russian suppliers or the dealers/sub-dealers and supplied by them to the actual users direct on the basis of 'first come first served'. S.T.C. does not allot tractors. No accurate indication of the time taken by the agents for supplying tractors can be given as this will depend upon various factors like the number of orders booked, availability of tractors, etc.

It is proposed to arrange future distribution of tractors through the Agro-Industries Corporations.