

MR. CHAIRMAN :

**Next question. AGREEMENT WITH U.S.S.R,
REGARDING DISTRIBUTION AND
AFTER-SALE SERVICE OF RUSSIAN
TRACTORS**

549. SARDAR RAM SINGH :

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY :

CHAUDHARY A. MOHAM-
MAD i

SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the Government of U.S.S.R, regarding the distribution and after-sale service of the Russian tractors;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.S.R, has opposed the distribution of Russian tractors through the Agro-Industries Corporation;

(c) if so, what are the details of the agreement; and

(d) by what time the tractors will be available for distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE): (a) The import of tractors from U.S.S.R, is in an advanced stage of negotiations with the Russian suppliers. These tractors will be distributed through the *Su'jC* Agro-Industries Corporations. Where possible, after-sale service of these tractors will also be provided by Agro-Industries Corporations. In other cases the Corporations may entrust this work to the existing Agents of these tractors on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Delivery schedule of tractors would be known after the contract is concluded.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Sir, for over twenty years we have been seeing that we are not yet self-sufficient in the matter of food production in this country.

The question was actually asked on the *flier* of the House by Shri N. R. Muniswamy.

In the Fourth Five-Year Plan we visualise a production of about 120 million tonnes of foodgrains and yet, for want of tractors, power tillers and other imported agricultural implements, where there is difficulty in procuring them, I doubt if we will be able to achieve this target of food production. Now, since the U.S.S.R. have not agreed for marketing and distribution of their tractors through these Agro-Industries Corporations and they wanted to have it done through their own Ghaziabad Engineering Company, I would like to know whether Government have thought over this matter to see what else they can do on their own to see that the shortage in the availability of the required tractors, power tillers and other agricultural machinery is made good in view of the large number of, for example, tractors that we need to put through our food production programme ? The requirement of tractors is about 50,000 annually.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The Russians have now agreed that the Russian tractors can be distributed through our Agro-Industries Corporations in the country, and we are having an import programme for about 6,000 tractors from the Soviet Union in this year.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : As regards after-sale service arrangement for their tractors the Russians are not agreeable to have it done through our Agro-Industries Corporations; they wanted it to be done only through their own Ghaziabad Engineering Company. Therefore I would like to know whether Government have thought of a way out of the present position where the after-sale service will be made only by this company of theirs.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, this has been already explained in the reply itself; where the Agro-Industries Corporations want the service to be done by themselves, they could do it. Where they have no facilities, and if the terms and conditions are agreed to, they can also entrust the after-sale service arrangement to the previous agents who were distributing the Russian tractors.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतायेंगे कि अभी समाचार पत्रों में इस प्रकार के समाचार प्रकाशित हुए हैं कि रूसी ट्रैक्टर जो 50 हार्स पावर के हैं, वह अपने यहां 10,000 मंगवाये

गये, उनके बारे में कृषि मंत्रालय और कामर्स मंत्रालय में आपस में, कैसे और किसके द्वारा यह बेचे जायें इसके बारे में विवाद था और उस विवाद के परिणामस्वरूप न तो वह ट्रैक्टर बेचे ही जा सके और न किसानों को ही उनसे किसी प्रकार का लाभ पहुंच सका और इस प्रकार 50 हास पावर वाले ये ट्रैक्टर्स अपने स्थान पर पड़े रहे और यह बात रूस को भी मालूम हो गई। क्या यह सत्य है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, there is yet no import of these tractors, in fact it was being negotiated, and even as far as the current negotiations are concerned, I have said that they are yet to be concluded. So there is no question of the tractors having been imported and lying idle, etc. All the information of the hon. Member, I think, is totally unfounded.

श्री निरंजन बर्मा : क्या श्रीमान् यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि मध्य प्रदेश में एक व्यक्ति को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिये लोन मिला और उसके बाद वह व्यक्ति आपके मंत्रालय में आया उस लोन का फायदा उठाने के लिये जिसे वह रूसी ट्रैक्टर 50 हास पावर को उसको दे दिया जाय, लेकिन क्या श्रीमान् को मालूम है कि आपका मंत्रालय उसे किसी प्रकार की सहायता नहीं दे सका जब कि रूसी ट्रैक्टर्स अपने यहाँ पर उपलब्ध थे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, we do not distribute the tractors to individuals. It is the job of the State Governments to make them available on the basis of availability. At that time it was the agents; now it is the Agro-Industries Corporations. Anyway we do not come into the picture as far as individual distribution is concerned.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know how many States have set up the Agro-Industries Corporations and what will be the quota of tractors ? Secondly may I know if the tractors manufactured in the country by private sector firms will also be distributed by the Agro-Industries Corporations ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE About nine to ten States have already established their Agro-Industries Corpora-

tions. The indigenous manufacturers are having their own arrangements for distribution etc. and the tractors which are being entrusted for distribution to the Agro-Industries Corporations and public sector organisations are imported tractors.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA : The hon. Minister has given some figure of the tractors which he is proposing to import; I think he said 6,000 as far as I heard him. Now I would like to know the total demand against which only 6000 tractors are being imported.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I mentioned the figure of tractors to be imported from the Soviet Union. We are importing from other sources also, that is, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Rumania etc. Moreover the number of tractor* which are being produced in the indigenous factories is also going up.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYAN : In order to meet the increasing demand for tractors and in view of the fact that a small tractor of 20 HP has been found to be more useful for the farmers the Government was contemplating to set up a factory for production of tractors in the public sector. May I know from the hon. Minister what progress has been made in this connection ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The hon. Member can put a question, to the Industries Ministry which looks after the manufacturing programme.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : May I know what arrangements the Agro-Industries Corporations have regarding servicing and after-sale maintenance of the tractors which are going to be supplied through them and secondly may I know on what basis the present supply of Russian tractors is distributed among various States ? What is the basis on which the quota is allocated because as I hope the hon. Minister is aware, there is a lot of flourishing blackmarket going on in Russian tractors. Some States receive a certain number which they are not able to sell to needy or desirous persons and people from other States where the quota seems to be less than their needs go there and purchase those tractors and the intermediaries get Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 of black money. If the Government is aware of this what do they propose to do to stop this racket of black-marketing in Russian tractors ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as Russian tractors are concerned during the last one year there were no imports and so far the State Governments or the Agro-Industries Corporation has not been in a position to distribute Russian tractors.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : What about the previous supplies ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Before that the private traders were distributing them. We received many complaints from farmers that they were indulging in blackmarketing and that is why we took the decision that we should distribute them through the public sector agency.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : Some months back there was a proposal that these Russian tractors should be provided to the agriculturist Members of Parliament. May I know how far the matter has progressed now ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, that was considered and found to be not feasible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In view of the fact that certain big landlords are taking to what they call capitalist farming with the aid of tractors do I have an assurance that the tractors that are imported or even manufactured within this country would not go to encourage their large-scale farming in order to build up concentration of wealth and exploitation in the rural areas but on the contrary will be distributed among the poorer sections of the peasants either through co-operatives or otherwise in order to help them and also to prevent this kind of intrusion of capitalism in the rural areas on a scale on which it is intended to be brought in with the aid of tractors and other implements of modern agriculture ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I am sorry the hon. Member sees capitalism everywhere. I do not know whether the hon. Member is aware of the fact that a large number of small farmers in our country cannot have even bullocks; they have no means of cultivation. Now if machinery is available, the co-operatives can own them and make them available to the farmers. Even individual farmers can own them and can make them available to small farmers on hire etc. So if tractors are available, I think cultiva-

tion of land in a proper way would be possible and all classes of farmers would stand to gain by that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why do you answer the question by misunderstanding me ? I know that the poor peasants cannot afford tractors each of which costs Rs. 18,000. That much I know. The point here is imported tractors and other tractors are being given to the very rich people not even to the rich peasants but to the big landlords, former Princes or those landlords who have lost some of their lands as a result of ceiling laws and other things. It is in that background I am asking whether the emphasis in distribution would be on those who are in the poorer category, and may be rich peasants also. Sir, the Government can hire them out and...

SHRI ABID ALI : Somehow he manages to put as many questions, as he like:-.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sure the Minister has understood your point of view.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is not ideological at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May I know from the Government the number of tractors that are available in each of the States, the demand for tractors in each of the States and in view of the fact that the target of agricultural production has to be achieved in the next Five Year Plan to meet all our food needs, will the Government consider applications for the manufacture of tractors in this country either in the public sector or in the private sector ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The Government is very well aware of the fact that the demand for tractors in our country is going up very sharply and that is why we have delicensed the tractor industry. Anybody can set up either in the private sector or in the public sector a factory for the manufacture of tractors or power tillers.

SHRI N. PATRA : May I know whether any assessment is made about the requirement of tractors during the coming

Five Year Plan; apart from the number of tractors to be imported from Russia are we importing tractors from other countries and if so what countries and what steps have been taken to meet the present needs of tractors against the demands of the cultivators ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I have already mentioned the names of the countries from which we are importing tractors apart from Russia. As far as our requirement is concerned we have worked out some projection for the next five years and we think that the demand is likely to be between 60,000 to 70,000 a year.

REVIEW OF WORKING OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

SHRIM V. BHADRAM :

SHRI C. ACHUTHAMENON :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of employment exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for improving the functioning of the employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The working of the employment exchanges was last reviewed in 1955-56 by Government, as a result of the recommendations of the Training and Employment Services Organisation Committee, commonly known as the Shiva Rao Committee.

(b) As a result of the recommendations of the above Committee—

(i) the employment exchanges organisation was made permanent;

(ii) the day-to-day administration was transferred to the States from 1st November, 1956 and the responsibility for coordination, supervision of work and formulation of policies and standards vested with the Central Government—

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. V. Bhadrans.

(iii) the cost of running the employment exchanges was shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40;

(iv) the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act was enacted in 1959; making it obligatory on all employers in the public sector and those employing 25 or more workers in the private sector, to notify their vacancies to the employment exchanges and to submit employment and occupation returns;

(v) Vocational Guidance and Employment Counselling and Occupational Information and Research Programmes were also launched and these now form part of the employment exchanges organisation.

(c) The functioning of the employment exchanges is being gradually improved in the light of the periodical recommendations made from time to time by the Working Group of the National Employment Service and the Central Committee on Employment.

The National Commission on Labour has set up a Study Group to review the employment and training position and to suggest ways and means to improve the functioning of the Employment Exchanges.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: According to the statement the review was made in 1955-56 and the Act came into force in 1959. Since then no review has been made during this period. May I know whether any complaints have been received about the functioning of the employment exchanges in the country?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: Not that no review is made. If the hon. Member reads part (c) it is said that the functioning of the employment exchanges is being gradually improved in the light of the periodical recommendations made from time to time by the Working Group of the National Employment Service and the Central Committee on Employment. There have been complaints and working is being improved as and when these recommendations come or as and when complaints come to the notice of the State Governments.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Is the Minister aware that there is a growing feeling among the unemployed that these employment exchanges are not coming to