

OFFER OF TRACTORS FROM FORD MOTORS

*565. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister, of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Motor Company of U.S.A. has made any offer to the Government of India to sell tractors to India against payment in Indian rupees;

(h) if so, the details of the offer; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No such offer has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

HANDLING OF CARGO AT CALCUTTA PORT

*566. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the handling of cargo at the Calcutta Port; and

(b) the incentive schemes, if any, in force at the port?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) For the handling of heavy machinery and iron and steel at transit sheds and yards, a number of mobile cranes, fork-lifts, jitney motors, trailers, trollies, floating cranes, etc., have been purchased.

A project to extend the Western Arm of King George's Dock is under execution. This extension will provide holding space for a number of ships and overside discharge facilities.

(b) The Commissioners' cargo handling labour are on an incentive

piece rate scheme. An incentive tonnage scheme for stevedore workers handling food ships and salt ships was introduced from March, 1965. The scheme for food ships applies to all categories of registered workers and listed baggers and stitchers employed on foodgrain ships; in the case of salt ships the scheme applies to listed salt workers on those ships.

TRANSPORT CORPORATION

*567. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is insisting on formation of Road Transport Corporation instead of departmentally run enterprises in various States as conditions of financial assistance; and

(b) whether Government propose to allow private operators to participate in these corporations and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) No Sir.

(b) The participation of other parties (including persons whose undertakings have been acquired by a Corporation) besides the State Government concerned and the Central Government, is permissible under the Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950.

SHIP-OWNERS DELEGATION TO U.S.A.

*568. SHRI P. K. KUMAR AN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send any delegation consisting of ship owners and Government officials to U.S.A. to discuss the freight rates between India and U.S.A.; and