

May I ask the Minister why the Government is not trying to consider the possibility of enforcing the policy of price control, in view of the fact that he himself recognises that there is shortage and the goods go underground and the prices are pushed up?

SHRI T- N. SINGH: I think the present system whereby the manufacturers have come to an agreement to impose price control is working better and before we step in, we should watch the progress of this system.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि जब तक जो बेबी फूड की कमी है वह पूरी नहीं की जा सकती उस वक्त तक क्या यह मुमकिन नहीं है कि कोई ऐसा विधान बनाया जाय जिससे कि सिर्फ बच्चों के लिए ही दूध, यह बेबी फूड, दिया जा सके और जो ज्यादा उम्र के लोग हैं उनको इस के बारे में रोक दिया जाय ?

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : यह आपका सुझाव है, विचार किया जा सकता है ।

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there was a great deal of shortage of baby food in Delhi and also in U.K.? May I know whether in these two States any stock has been confiscated?

SHM BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: To our knowledge, no stock has been confiscated in these two States.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know from the Minister what special facilities he is going to provide for (his industry, whether it be in the private sector or in the co-operative sector, to the new entrepreneurs that are likely to come into the field?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: There is nothing like any very particular, special facilities except that the dairying arrangements should be encouraged in those areas, that there would be proper animal husbandry practices etc. That should be done—Otherwise, the entrepreneurs on their own can go ahead and make improvements.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Will this food be available for second childhood also?

SHRI T- N. SINGH: That is a suggestion which I can look into.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Is it a fact that baby food has been sold on a large scale, to hotels and restaurants and thus there has been a shortage of baby food to the detriment of the health of the babies?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: That may be so. I am prepared to accept that information from the Member.

*413. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer vide cols. 3027-28 infra.]

*414. [The questioner (Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh) was absent. For answer vide cols. 3028-29 infra.]

MANUFACTURE OF TRACTORS

♦415. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to start a factory for manufacturing medium size tractors; and

(b) if so, whether any foreign collaboration for this project has been decided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet, Sir.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know what will be the annual production of this factory and where it is to be located?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: There are now three collaboration offers under consideration. In one case, the feasibility report has been received and the Government of India has given its comments.

We are awaiting the reply. In the two other cases the feasibility report is to be prepared. Unless that is done it will be difficult to say about the capacity that is to be installed and also the place where it will be located.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know the foreign exchange component involved in this?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I think we should await the three Project Reports before committing ourselves in figure about the foreign exchange.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: In view of the fact that in our country there are small farms of about five acres or less in millions in number, may I know whether the Government will consider the point that these tractors will have to fulfil the requirements of these small farms?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: All these schemes that are there whether for tractors or for power tillers are being considered in full consultation with the Agricultural Ministry and with their approval only these will be taken up.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know which are the three countries with which the Government of India is negotiating or somebody is negotiating for collaboration?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: One is the Czech offer, the other is the Russian offer and there is also the French offer.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: In view of the fact that this country is passing through a critical stage so far as food shortage is concerned, will the Minister assure this House that the factory for manufacturing these small tractors will be established as early as possible?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: It can only say that because of the urgency we have decided to take up this project in the public sector and that shows the measure of seriousness that Government attaches to this.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: In view of the fact that it is recognised that the tanks and tractors are very near each other mechanically speaking—and in the last Great War this was a very big second line of defence in England particularly—may I ask the hon. Minister if he is exploring the possibility of linking up this scheme with the tank production factory being set up in the South?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I think it will be very difficult to answer this question particularly as I would like to consult the Defence Minister before saying anything about this.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know if any assessment of the requirements of the tractors in this country has been made. How many of them are going¹ to be produced and in how many Plans will the entire requirements be met?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: The Third Plan target was 10,000 in number per annum and it is now estimated both by the Planning Commission and in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture also that the Fourth Plan target so far as the tractors are concerned—I am not speaking of power tillers—will be about 40,000 per annum and the licence. . . .

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में कितनों को यह लाइसेंस दिया गया है, कब वे पूरा करेंगे और अगर दिया है तो कितना दिया है?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: The licence, I said, is for 11,000 in number it is distributed among four firms.

REPRESENTATIVES OF EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS ABROAD

*416. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the Export Promotion Councils have tiepiited their representatives abroad;