

As regards, steel demand for mechanised farming in the context of the present emergency, no special steps have been initiated. The demand for Agriculture sector including mechanised farming will however be substantially met in the overall planning of steel development for the Fourth Plan.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether the needs of some more ordinance factories that are going to be set up in the country will be sufficiently met?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: We do not know about defence factories that are likely to be set up. If the demand comes, naturally to the extent possible we would be very happy to meet it. Nothing more than that can be said by our Department.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, our industrialists had made an offer that they would co-operate in manufacturing defence requirements. May I know, Sir, if the Government have taken them into confidence and furnished them with a list of articles required; if so, what is their reaction to it?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Regarding the supply of alloy steel we undertook to supply them their necessary requirement. But the setting up of defence industries is the concern of other Ministries.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, if you permit me to ask the Minister, may I know whether it is a fact that about four years ago there was a scheme to manufacture alloy steel particularly for defence purposes, which would have meant a capital outlay of approximately Rs. 27 crores? That scheme was turned down by a Joint Secretary in the Finance Ministry. Now the same scheme we are going to start costing us more than double of what it would have cost us then.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: I am not very sure about any Joint Secre-

tary turning down the scheme, Sir. We are now considering how best we can meet the demand of alloy steel for defence requirements. A number of meetings are held. We are also consulting the private sector, and the public sector is also taking steps to produce much more. I do not know why at an early stage it was turned down and why it is now taken up. I require a little notice, Sir.

AWARD TO STATION MASTER OF ATTARI

*167. { **SHRI U. S. DUGAL:**†
 SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:

• Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Station Master of Attari near Amritsar was the first Indian to inform the Government about the preparation of Pakistani Army to march towards Amritsar; and

(b) if so, whether he has been given any award in this connection by the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Not as far as is known to us.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI U. S. DUGAL: May I know, Sir, from the Minister whether the Government is thinking of awarding the Station Masters in any form other than cash award?

SHRI SHAM NATH: Sir, 26 railway servants of the border areas on the Northern Railway have been selected for being given cash awards only, and Mr. Chopra is one of them.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे कि कितना अवार्ड दे रहे हैं अपने स्टेशन मास्टर्स को ?

SHRI SHAM NATH: Sir, the cash awards will range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri U. S. Dugal.