

(b) All these applications have been rejected.

(c) A statement is attached. [See Appendix L, Annexure No. 12].

#### MANUFACTURE OF CHEAP POWER-TILLERS IN PUBLIC SECTOR

238. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preparatory arrangements have been made to manufacture cheap power-tillers in the public sector; and

(b) if so, what the details of the arrangements are and when production will start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) and (b): Government have decided, in principle, to establish a unit in the public sector for the manufacture of tractors and power tillers. For this purpose, a feasibility study is being undertaken. A preliminary report received from the Czechoslovakian Republic is under examination.

#### APPOINTMENT OF ESTATE OFFICERS IN THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

239. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 21st and the 22nd September, 1964 the South Eastern Railway held a selection of non-gazetted staff for appointment as Estate Officers;

(b) whether only gazetted officers can be appointed as Estate Officers under provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act., 1958; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the circumstances in which the selection was made from amongst non-gazetted officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Yes. Those qualified in written test held on 22nd August, 1964 were called for viva-voce test on 21st September, 1964 and 22nd September 1964.

(b) Yes. In terms of the relevant Act, the Estate Officer should be a gazetted officer.

(c) Since the posts of Estate Officers on the South Eastern Railway are in Junior Scale/Class II, the selection was held to determine the suitability of eligible non-gazetted staff for promotion to Class II gazetted rank under normal rules.

#### FIRES IN H.E.C. RANCHI

240. { SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:  
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 93 in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th September, 1964 and state:

(a) what precautionary steps are being taken to stop recurrence of fires in Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi;

(b) what was the total estimated loss due to the three fires at Ranchi; and

(c) whether it is proposed to take action against any persons for these fires?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA): (a) Fire fighting and security arrangements in the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., have been strengthened.

(b) About Rs. 51 lakhs but ten lakhs rupees worth of serviceable components have been salvaged.

(c) Action against the persons concerned has been initiated.