

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: With regard to transportation by Indian shippers, it has not been substantial. It has been mainly of parcel lot quantities of three to five thousand tons per month except for an occasional shipload. With regard to the total quantity imported, it would come to about 4½ million tons, both wheat and rice.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Why is it that the Indian shippers are not transporting the grain they ought to?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: One reason is that there is a small tonnage of Indian merchant fleet. Secondly, it is possible that the Indian shippers find that the transport of such cargo is not ; profitable.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that only an insignificant quantity of foodgrains is imported in Indian ships, may I know why Government is not taking any steps to see that Indian shipping more and more enters the field and takes over as much part of the trade as possible so far as shipping goes?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The purchase of organisations have been given instructions that wherever possible, Indian shipping should be given preference. In the matter of imports of rice from Burma, it is solely done in Indian ships.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether there are different rates for different cargoes of different commodities and, if so, why is the rate for foodgrain cargo lower, which discourages the Indian shippers to take to this?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We get competitive rates and generally, these rates are more or less uniform. The rates for non-U.S. flag vessels are more or less uniform.

TRACTORS IN THE COUNTRY

*225. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors at present in India; and

(b) how many of them have been lying idle for want of spare parts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) 35,000 approximately.

(b) Sufficient spare parts are being allowed to be imported for the economic life of the tractors. There is, however, an attempt to run the tractors beyond their economic life in view of the current shortage of tractors on account of difficult foreign exchange situation and, therefore, some shortage of spare parts is felt. The precise number of tractors which are lying idle for want of spare parts is not known.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: What is the State-wise distribution of these tractors?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I am afraid I have not got the figure State-wise.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: From my experience in Mysore State, I have found that more tractors are lying idle than tractors that are working. Is it the same state of affairs in the entire country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do occasionally hear complaints from farmers that they cannot use the tractors for various reasons. Either they are short of spare parts or those people who hold the spare parts charge them exorbitantly. I am afraid the situation is not happy, I am prepared to admit it. But it is not correct to say in a sweeping manner that most tractors are lying idle.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I give the number of tractors that are lying in the State of Mysore? I just

wanted to know why more number of tractors are lying idle. Anyway, may I know if there is any attempt made to produce our own agricultural tractors in the country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, that is the solution we are waiting for anxiously, and it is likely that soon tractor manufacture will be undertaken here and more tractors will be available in India.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will it be possible to start manufacture of some of these parts in our own country with the collaboration of foreign firms?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Already a progressively larger number of spare parts are being manufactured in India.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that the same conditions are prevailing in U.P. also and that the shortage of spare parts is being felt by the farmers there?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, as I have mentioned in my reply, we are aware of this need and we are trying to help them as much as possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Some time ago the hon. Minister in this House said that the Central Tractor Organisation was selling some of its tractors because spare parts were not available. Now, he says that spare parts are available. In view of the fact that spare parts are available, may I know whether the Central Tractor Organisation is going to maintain its tractors and take the initiative in the matter of supply of tractors to others?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The statement attributed to me is absolutely incorrect. I could never have said like that because it is not a fact that the Central Tractor Organisation is being wound up only because we cannot get the spare parts. We could 1038 RS—2.

not get replacements of the existing tractors used by the Central Tractor Organisation and that was the main reason why it was wound up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is a refinement of expression. That is what he said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter. Go on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if it is not a fact that on this ground or on an alleged ground, the hon. Minister was selling some of the tractors to various agencies including the Dandakaranya Authority and that in this connection, he received a memorandum from the employees of the Central Tractor Organisation complaining against such disposal of tractors and also against certain measures taken with a view to curtailing the activities of the Central Tractor Organisation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is common knowledge that those employees who were to be discharged made various kinds of complaints, some of them probably at the instigation of my hon. friend.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a personal reflection?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I am prepared to call it a suggestion because he has sympathies for the unemployed and not because of any ulterior motive. That is all that I would say in reply to the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then why does he say 'instigation'?

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: In view of the fact that the Government is finding it very difficult to meet the demand for spare parts, will he think it desirable to give import licences to individual parties who are genuinely in need for the spare parts for their tractors?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The arrangement that we have made for the import of spare parts should be adequate for this purpose.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Government has been trying to encourage better production of food and the hon. Minister said just now that it was impossible to find out how many tractors were lying idle. Why is it difficult for Government to ascertain how many tractors are lying idle with all the vast machinery at its command in the various States?

- DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: As I have said, there can be very many reasons for the tractors lying idle. One of them, against which we can complain, is Government's inability to give all the spare parts the owners would like to import.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She asks, "How many are lying idle?"

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I want the number.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We will be able to give it next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHIFTING: OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

•226. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Institute of Mental Health is to be shifted from Bangalore to Ranchi; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this shifting?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR): (a) and (b) The matter is still under correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Mysore and no final decision has yet been arrived at.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The people of Mysore are expressing great concern over the proposed shifting of this Institute from Bangalore to Ranchi, and there has been a lot of speculation in this regard. Will the Minister also kindly take note that they have spent a lot of money on buildings, etc. at Bangalore and that the transfer of this Institute from Bangalore to any other place will mean a lot of wastage of public funds, etc.?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: What is the question, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you were listening to others when the question was put.

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: "The people of Mysore were concerned, lots of money had been spent on the Institute and it would be a wastage of public funds if the Institute were transferred from Bangalore to Ranchi". This is the substance of the question, I think, Sir.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Had the Minister occasion to see the lot of comments made in the press about this agitation, Sir?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Yes, Sir, I have seen them. There is no reason for any such comments. People need not be concerned. All will go on well in the end.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, why this Institute is being moved from Bangalore to Ranchi?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Sir, I have said that "The matter is under correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Mysore". To allay the apprehensions of my friends I may add that the original agreement between the Government of Mysore, which had a mental hospital, and the Government of India, which established a new All India Mental Research Institute there, was that the Director of the Institute