

AUTOMATIC MACHINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

*493. SHRI NARAYANDAS DAGA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic calculating, bill making and recording machines and other similar machines purchased and put into operation by the Ministry of Communications and their attached and subordinate offices during the last three years;

(b) the total cost of such purchases; and

(c) whether the machines purchased are of Indian manufacture?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

TRACTORS RECEIVED FROM U.S.S.R.

*494. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the prices at which tractors have recently been supplied by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to India;

(b) the nature of work for which those tractors are being utilized in India; and

(c) whether any Russian engineer has been put in charge of the operation of those tractors?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Price is Rs. 4,385 each c.i.f. Bombay.

(b) These tractors are to be utilised for testing their suitability for different agricultural operations.

(c) A Russian tractor technician is expected to arrive shortly to supervise the working of these tractors and to train Indian Mechanics.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know how many tractors have been purchased?

OR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Only 4.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What will be the remuneration of that engineer?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think he is coming at his own cost.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know whether any other country except Russia was approached in connection with the purchase of the tractors?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your question is only about the Russian tractors.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: May I know how the price compares with other similar imported tractors?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Similar tractors, without the implements which form part of these tractors and spares, from U.K. and U.S.A. would cost Rs. 4,500.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have they been brought on a trial basis?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They have been brought for experimental purposes.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it a fact that we have manufactured some at Amritsar?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Not yet. There are one or two models but production on large scale is yet to begin.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In view of the fact that only 4 such tractors have been purchased by the Government of India, may I know if this expert is coming only to supervise these four tractors?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, because this is an experiment. He wants us to succeed in the experiment and if we succeed, then more tractors may be coming.