

TRACTORS PURCHASED FOR COMMUNITY
PROJECTS

*283. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the firms which are supplying tractors for the community projects, and the amount paid up to April 1953, for these purchases; and

(b) the names of the States which have so far received the tractors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) The names of the firms are:—

1. M/s. Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A.
2. M/s. Allis Chalmers Mfg. Co., Milwaukee, U.S.A.

The tractors have not yet been delivered, and no payment has been made.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: When are the tractors expected, Sir?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Within the next four to six months.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: How many of them are expected?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Fifty-four tractors have been indented for.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Are these tractors earmarked for any State?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: They are not earmarked for any State, but they will be distributed to the several States from which the requests have come or will be coming.

SHRI B. P. AGARWAL: What is the horse-power of these tractors?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have no information.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know as to why these tractors are being purchased from this Fund?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Under the T.C.A. they have provided certain funds for expenditure, on equipment. So we are utilising them.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: So, these tractors are being purchased under the T.C.A. programme?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Therefore, what are the stipulations of that agreement? Why are we making payments for the tractors that we are purchasing under an agreement?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, a copy of the agreement was laid on the Table of the House and if the hon. Member wants, he can refer to that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: My question is: The tractors are being purchased under the T.C.A. Agreement. Now, when we are going in for an agreement, it is definitely for certain benefits. So what are those benefits?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are we paying for the tractors when we are purchasing them under some agreement?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The position with regard to this T.C.A. Agreement is that the money that is allotted to India is used for the purchase of certain materials, and the Government of India have to create counterpart funds here on this side for use in the community projects. The money can be used in any manner the Government of India decides. They can purchase tractors; they can purchase fertilisers, or anything else. And I am not betraying a secret, Sir, if I tell the Council that in the next year, we do propose to use the funds set apart for the purchase of certain raw materials which are necessary for the country, but the obligation now upon us is that we

should create the rupee counterpart here and place it at the disposal of the T.C.A. for being used in community projects with their approval.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir. I could not follow that exactly. The programme has got two funds, A and B. I could understand that our tractors should be debited to Fund A, namely, the Dollar Fund. My question is: How are you going to utilise the rupee part of it?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, as I have already said, we have to create the rupee fund for expenditure on projects which are approved by the T.C.A.

DESTRUCTION OF TEA IN ASSAM TEA GARDENS

*284. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the owners of most of the tea gardens at Tezpur, Assam are destroying the lowest grades of tea in order to bolster up the prices; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). There are instances where tea waste and residue grades of tea which are unfit for sale are destroyed, in order to maintain the quality of tea sold and to prevent adulteration. No tea is destroyed in order to bolster up prices.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Press report from Tezpur which says that "the European gardens whose lowest grade teas had the qualities requisite in tea sold for human consumption, are reported to have been burning up those grades"? May I therefore ask the hon. Minister what he means by saying that the tea

that is destroyed is not suitable for human consumption?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I exactly meant what I said.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: What steps have the Government taken to prevent destruction of tea?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: According to us, no good tea is destroyed. As I have said, the waste and lowest grade tea is destroyed and that also to good purpose.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: In the papers we read reports that the tea that was destroyed was suitable for human consumption. What steps have the Government taken in this direction?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should think that the hon. Member should trust us better than trusting others.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know, Sir, whether the same practice of destroying the lowest grades of tea has been followed in the North Bengal tea gardens?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I have no exact information about the particular region of the gardens. But so far as I could see, I wish it were so.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM: May I know, Sir, whether there is any control over the grading system of tea in order to save the consumer from the capitalist exploitation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: From the capitalist exploitation! Hear, hear, Opposition Benches.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, there is no question of grading of tea. So far as the Government are concerned, I would like to elaborate the point my colleague made and that is this. No tea can be destroyed without the permission of the Excise Department of the