

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 30th August, 1968/the 8th Bhadra, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ram Sahai's Question No. 772 relates to the same matter as Question No. 751. So I will allow both these Questions to be taken up together.

DEMANDS FOR TRACTORS, ETC.

*751. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPA-YEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the demands for (i) tractors, (ii) fertilisers, (iii) pesticides and insecticides for the forthcoming kharif and rabi seasons; and

(b) if so, the details of the assessment and the measures taken for their supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(i) *Tractors*.—The number of tractors required is estimated as 63,000. Steps are being taken to meet the demand, as far as possible, by increasing the indigenous production and by imports. The indigenous manufacturers are being assisted liberally in the matter of importing tractor components. Further, the tractor manufacturing industry has recently been delicensed for raising production in the country.

(ii) *Fertilisers*.—The requirements, in terms of Nitrogen, of fertilisers for H. V. P., I. A. D. P., Multiple Cropping and E. O. C. C., as accepted by Govern-

ment of India and States, is 13,15,294 tonnes for the year 1968-69.

tFor supplementary questions and answers, vide cols. 5331-5340 *infra*. 1—35 R.S./68

ment of India and States, is 13,15,294 tonnes for the year 1968-69.

The principles of allocation of fertilisers from the Central Fertiliser Pool during 1968-69 were discussed in Conference of representatives of States and other interests held on the 4th and 5th March, 1968. It was decided that Pool may allot the requirements of High Yielding Varieties Programme and Intensive Agricultural District Programme in full and meet the balance requirements partially after taking into account the free sale quota which the States would be able to secure from the factories located around their States and stocks of fertilisers held by each States. It was decided that the Government of India need not give programme-wise breakup of allocation and apportionments of allocations for different programmes may be left to the discretion of the States. Taking the above factors into consideration, the States Governments have been informed of their annual quota in terms of Nitrogen and Phosphatic fertilisers which they will get out of the Pool. This will meet the realistic demand of fertilisers of all the States.

(iii) *Pesticides and Insecticides*.—The requirements of various pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, weedicides, fumigants, etc.) have been assessed at about 37,000 tonnes (technical grade). Availability of raw materials for the internally produced chemicals (about 2/3 quantity) are being assured to the manufacturers. Imports are being liberally authorised by issue of necessary licences to the formulators. The formulated pesticides (both locally manufactured and imported) are distributed by Governmental, Cooperative and private agencies.

किसानों को रूसी ट्रैक्टरों की सप्लाई

*772. श्री राम सहाय : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष में जुलाई के अन्त तक रूस से 50 हार्स पावर वाले कितने ट्रैक्टर मंगाये गये; और

(ख) क्या उन्हें यह विदित है कि किसान लोग 50 हार्स पावर वाले रूसी ट्रैक्टर उधार अथवा नकद किसी तरह भी प्राप्त नहीं कर सके हैं; और यदि हां तो क्या सरकार द्वारा इस मामले पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

t[SupPLY OF RUSSIAN TRACTORS TO FARMERS

*772. SHRI RAM SAHAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how many 50 H.P., tarctors were obtained from the U.S.S.R. during the current year upto the end of July; and

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the farmers have not been able to get 50 H.P. Russian tractors either on loan or by making payment in cash; and if so, whether this matter is being considered by Government?]

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सह-कारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिंदे) : (क) चालू वर्ष में जुलाई, 1968 तक पचास अश्व शक्ति वाले 55 बाईलारस ट्रैक्टर आयात किए गए।

(ख) सरकार 50 अश्व शक्ति के ट्रैक्टर आयात करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है। किस देश से ये ट्रैक्टर आयात किए जायेंगे इस बात का निर्णय इन ट्रैक्टरों के आयात सम्बन्धी प्रस्ताव के अनुमोदित होने के बाद ही किया जाएगा।

t[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) 55 Nos. of 50 H. P. Byelarus Tractors were imported during the current year upto July, 1968.

(b) The Government has under consideration a proposal for import of tractors in the H.P. range of 50. The country from which the tractors are to be imported will be decided after the proposal for importing these tractors is approved.]

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : Sir, it is good of the Government that they have made certain estimates of the development inputs that are required for

increasing agricultural production in the country. At the same time, it was necessary that the Government should have paid attention to meet the demand of tractors, fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides. So far as tractors are concerned, we have already five unit's producing these tractors, whose installed capacity is 30,000, but actually the production is only 13,000, that is, less than 50 per cent. May I know, Sir from the Government: what steps are being taken to see that these units themselves produce these tractors to their full capacity and also see that the demand for tractors is met by installing a public sector factory so far as small tractors are concerned? Will the Government look into this and see that active steps are taken in this direction?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far as fertilisers and pesticides are concerned, there is no difficulty in regard to their availability. In regard to tractors, as has been pointed out by the hon'ble Member, there is obviously some gap between the demand and the supply, and this has been engaging the attention of my Ministry as well as the Ministry of Industrial Development which is in charge of the production programme of tractors. The licensed capacity is, of course, 30,000 but the installed capacity is much less, about 15,300, but because of liberal licences for capital goods, components and raw materials which have been granted to local manufacturers, now the Ministry of Industrial Development expects about 20,000 pieces may be manufactured this year. My own experience is there is always a lag between the targeted production and the actual production.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN : Apart from the shortage of different inputs, so far as agricultural production is concerned, it is now a recognised fact—and this has been brought out in a study by the Department itself—that these inputs do not reach the small peasant because of a very lengthy procedure and vested interests created in the co-operatives in the districts and other places. May I know, Sir, from the hon'ble Minister what steps the Government is taking to see that these procedures are simplified and the effect of these vested interests is removed, from the co-operatives so that the distribution reaches the smaller peasant?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as the supply of fertilisers and pesticides to farmers is concerned, they are mostly distributed through co-operatives. The smaller farmers have genuine difficulties because their resources are so inadequate and their creditworthiness is also on a very poor side. But this has been engaging the attention of the Government, and because of crop loans, estimates, etc. efforts are being made to solve these problems.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि रशियन ट्रैक्टरों इस वक्त कितने आपने मंगाये और कितने और मंगाने का आप का खयाल है ? मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ जमीन ऐसी है जहां हलके ट्रैक्टरों काम नहीं करते हैं और वहां भारी ट्रैक्टरों की आवश्यकता है। वहां खाद्यान्न की बहुत उत्पत्ति होती है। इस लिये क्या आप कृपा करके इस बारे में विचार करेंगे कि शीघ्रतः-शीघ्र ऐसे ट्रैक्टरों वहां के कृषकों को अवैलेबिल हो जायें ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, farming in Madhya Pradesh need not depend only on the import of Russian tractors because tractors having a horsepower range of 20-50 are manufactured in our own country. At the same time, as is well known to the House, we are having an import programme from the Soviet Union which has some difficulty because we have been saying that the tractors which will be imported from the Soviet Union and other countries should be distributed through public sector agencies. There have been some difficulties. The Russian representatives have still not agreed to our proposal. That is why the import programme from the Soviet Union has not been actually gone through.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got 14 names. Therefore, hurry up. Put a question and get an answer. Mr. Kul-karni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, in view of this new agricultural strategy there should be integrated development of total agriculture. The Government

should have assessed the inadequacy of tractor manufacturing in this country. It is not enough to grant licences or delicense the industry. May I know, Sir, from the hon'ble Minister what positive steps as an incentive to manufacture tractors on a larger scale have been taken by the Government. That is one .

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of one, two, three or four. One question only. The first questioner is given two chances. But if you begin saying one, two or three, it is no use.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to submit that there are two Questions and I am asking supplementaries on both.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Put a second question as a special case.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the two questions are interwoven, that is why I am asking a second question. Secondly, as has been pointed out by the Government, the import of Russian tractors of 50 H.P. and above has been arranged from Russia. Now, in this country there being different soils, tractors of different horse power are required. May I know what is hampering Government efforts to arrange the distribution of these Russian tractors whether it is the political reasons or whether it is some pressure on the part of the vested interests in the private sector to arrange the distribution of these Russian tractors through the private sector alone which is hampering Government effort. What is the reason for delaying the distribution and the import of Russian tractors? That is my second question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the manufacturing programme is concerned, as the hon'ble Member has referred to the fact that the tractor industry has recently been delicensed, this is a positive step which has been taken so that the manufacturing programme gets the necessary impetus. We find that a number of parties have already submitted their proposals for the manufacturing programme. For instance, there are the G.D.R. 'RS-09', the Bulgarian Bolger TK-224-D, the Rumanian UTOS-UTD-S-650, the Japanese Kor-nalsu D-50-15 and Zetor-2011, and DT-14B. These proposals are under the examination of the Government of

India. We think that as a result of the interest being taken by the parties the manufacture programmes are likely to materialise. My Ministry is pursuing with the Industrial Development Ministry that these proposals should be processed as early as possible.

In regard to the second point, I think the hon'ble Member should know that we do not take decisions as a result of pressure from anybody. In fact, it was at the initiative of my Ministry that we took the decision. When we started getting a large number of complaints about maldistribution, misdistribution, blackmarketing etc. We have taken a firm decision that the imported tractors should be distributed through the public sector agencies and through the State Governments.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमान्, इसी विषय में मैंने एक प्रश्न पूछा था कि रूस द्वारा जो 50 हार्स पावर के ट्रैक्टर आये हैं उनके वितरण में क्या बाधनी हो रही है। आपने जो अभी यह निर्णय लिया कि पब्लिक सेक्टर से उनका वितरण किया जायगा, तो इससे पहले जो आपने बांटे थे उस बांटने के परिणाम-स्वरूप वे ब्लैकमार्केट में बिके। तो क्या श्रीमान् यह बतायेंगे कि जिन आदमियों को स्टेट सरकारों से जनवरी और फरवरी के महीने में ट्रैक्टर लेने के लिये लोन मिल चुका है उनकी आपके पास ये शिकायतें और तकलीफें आई हैं कि उनको ट्रैक्टर नहीं मिले इस लिये उनकी खेती बन्द पड़ी हुई है ? तो क्या आप इस पर कुछ ध्यान देने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, after the distribution was entrusted to public sector agencies, we have not received any complaint of any irregularity, etc. As far as the other part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, as I have mentioned earlier, there is a gap between demand and supply, and that is why there has been some hardship.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister what has happened to the proposal of allowing tractors to be imported customs free, as free gifts, from relations abroad? There was a proposal like that and hon.

Jaggiwan Ram had also spoken about it. Now many people are asking us : What has happened to that proposal ? I want to know whether it is alive or dead and, if it is dead, why it is dead.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, the proposal is still under consideration.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time also he said that it was under consideration. We want to know how long the Government would take to decide on this proposal because many of the farmers in Punjab and Haryana have their relations in England and other places who are prepared to send them tractors. We want to increase productivity and We want to be self-sufficient So, why is the delay? What is the hitch?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, I can appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member. We ourselves are quite anxious, but we have to consult other Ministries. Naturally the other Ministries have their own difficulties in scrutinising the proposals. But we are trying to pursue it.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Is it a fact that the average farmer is unable to afford the present cost of a tractor, either imported or produced in the country, and, if so, has the Government any proposal to make available these tractors on instalment or hire-purchase basis?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, there are various loan advancing agencies; there are co-operative banks, land mortgage banks and a number of other institutions, including commercial banks, from which credit facilities are available and after taking credit from these institutions, tractors can be purchased.

SHRI ARIUN ARORA : Sir, may I know what the present number of the various types of tractors in the country is and what the import programme for the current year is? I am informed that the finalisation of the import programme for the current year has somehow been delayed. So, has it been finalised and, if so, what is the breakup of the various types of tractors to be imported this year? Thirdly, may I know what has happened to the Ramnagar project, Varanasi District, for the manufacture of tractors in the public sector?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the import programme is concerned, we are trying to see that a larger number of tractors are imported this year, and though we wanted to have a bigger import programme, so far it has been agreed in consultation with the other Ministries that 10,000 tractors would be imported in the next few months. They would be mostly from rupee payment areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Banka Behary Das.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : May I know from the hon. Minister . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, I seek your protection. The Minister has replied to only one of the three parts of my question. He has not . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Banka Behary Das.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : May I know from the Minister whether, in view of the fact that the tractors can be utilised only by big peasants, there is any scheme for the coming year to import power tillers which could be utilised by the middle-class peasants in the country?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : That is true, we are looking to both the aspects because taking into consideration, the predominantly large number of small holdings in our country, the power tillers are considered to be very useful. And that is why, apart from encouraging the manufacturing programme, we have an import programme of 4,000 pieces of power tillers this year.

SHRI G. R. PATIL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the price of fertiliser in the country is the highest in the world and, if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to see that fertiliser is made available at least to the weaker sections of the farmers at a cheaper rate?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, I seek your protection. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the main question. If I have to go into the various aspects like the pricing, etc., of fertilisers, then I don't think it will come under the purview of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Balachandra Menon.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : With a view to affording help to the poor and medium peasants, will the Government see that small tractors and power tillers are manufactured more in our own country and steps in that direction are taken, and also see that the small peasants are helped to have their soil tested in high school and college laboratories with adequate staff provided by Government ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, about the first part of the question. I entirely agree with the views of the hon. Member.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Sir, the Minister has stated that the requirement of tractors is about 63,000. It is good that the Minister has revised the figure because earlier it was stated to be 40,000; now he has gone to 63,000. But in the second line^ he has said : "Steps are being taken to meet the demand, as far as possible, by increasing the production and by imports." As regards production, Sir, the Minister of industry said a few months back—the position is not better than what it was then—that this year the production of tractors may not be anywhere beyond 20,000. Now the Minister has stated that the import figure will be of the order of 8,000. So 20,000, plus this 8,000, if it materialises—I say "if it materialises" because I find there is a lot of difficulty on the import side—comes to 28,000. What is the Minister going to do about the balance ? I would like to know whether any assessment has been made as to how many small, medium and high H. P. tractors are needed in this total requirement of 63,000, and whether the Ministry has recommended for import of high H. P. tractors also. I understand it has been rejected by the Industries Ministry. Is it a fact ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, in regard to the assessment of tractors, the hon. Member has quoted some figures. It is not a question of revising. From time to time the estimates go on changing because with a good agricultural year, there is naturally more demand. And among the farmers also, a new consciousness is coming. There is a trend in favour of mechanisation. The estimates which are worked out to-day will perhaps have to be revised after six months. The figures would naturally go on changing from time to time. As far as the gap between the demand and supply is concerned, I have tried to explain the

position. I appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member about the manufacturing programme. As I have already explained, in a vast country like ours, unless we are in a position to have a manufacturing programme on a very big scale in our own country, I do not think it would be possible to meet such a big demand. We are trying our level best but in the meantime we are trying to see that the manufacturers take up the manufacturing programme on a big scale and as early as possible; and at the same time, to the extent possible, we are trying to import the maximum quantity.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Sir, it was admitted in this House in the last session on the question of imported tractors that especially the tractors imported from Russia go out of order often and there are no spare parts easily available to put them in order.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who told you so ?

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Now, when they are ordering 10,000 tractors from Russia, will the Government place an order for spare parts also along with the indent for those 10,000 tractors ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the point raised by the hon. Member has already been taken notice of by us. In the past we were indiscriminately allowing import of various makes of tractors. But after looking into the fact that the availability of spare parts becomes one of the important problems, we are trying to restrict the imports to certain makes of tractors. As far as the import of spare parts is concerned, we are trying to see that liberal imports are granted to actual users and established importers so that availability of spare parts is assured.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know from the hon. Minister . . .

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA : Sir, already we have taken 20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it is an important question and the Minister is so good as to answer in such detail; I congratulate him. Mr. C. D. Pande.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know what is the number of tractors which are out in working order and are lying idle because of lack of spare parts ? I think import of spare parts is as impor-

tant as import of new tractors. If the Government imports the requisite quantity of spare parts, the tractors that are now lying idle for want of spare parts can be put to use. In my own constituency in Nainital, there are at least 12,000 tractors which are lying idle.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I have already said that liberal imports are being allowed for spare parts and even we try to help the actual users; some foreign exchange has been specifically ear-marked for this and if the State Government brings to our notice that the foreign exchange is not sufficient, we are prepared to support the demand of the State Government and see that the necessary spare parts are made available to them.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, according to the Statement, the annual requirement of tractors is 63 thousand but the Ministry has not mentioned what is the total production now of tractors in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES IN MAIN CITIES

*752. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any crash programme for the installation of additional telephones in the main cities of the country; and

(b) if so, how many telephones are likely to be added under the programme during the next three years, yearwise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJ-RAL) : (a) A crash programme had been prepared for providing additional telephones at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, over and above those envisaged in the normal Plan. The programme had been submitted to the Ministry of Finance for provision of funds and foreign exchange outside the Plan programme. The Ministry of Finance have advised that it may not be possible to provide additional funds.

(b) The programme had envisaged wiping out the waiting lists in these four towns, as they existed on 31-3-68, by 31-3-71. The exchange capacity proposed to be added in each of these.