

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Wheat prices showed an increase during January to mid-March, 1970 in the wheat growing States of Bihar, Gujarat, Harayana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3061/70.].

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the second fortnight of March, 1970, prices have generally declined or become steady in these States as may be seen from the statement given in part (b).

Retrenchment of Labour in Palana Colliery

4803. SHRI P. L. BARUPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palana Colliery have effected large scale retrenchment of labour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which retrenchment notices were issued from the office of the Palana Colliery; and

(d) whether the representatives of workers were consulted before taking such steps by the Management?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) Yes.

(b) It became an uneconomic unit because of recurrent fire due to spontaneous heating and was closed.

(c) 20-11-1969.

(d) No.

Demand for Wheel Tractors, Power Tillers and Crawler Tractors till 1973-74

4804. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demand, year-wise, for Wheel Tractors, Power Tillers and Crawler Tractors till 1973-74; and

(b) the arrangements made for fulfilling this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

(SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The estimated demand year-wise for wheel tractors, power tillers and crawler tractors till 1973-74 is given below:—

(i) *Wheel Tractors and Power Tillers.*

Year	Total Demand	
	Wheel Tractors	Power Tillers
1969-70	70,000	20,000
1970-71	70,000	30,000
1971-72	75,000	40,000
1972-73	80,000	60,000
1973-74	90,000	80,000
Total:	3,85,000	2,30,000

(ii) The average demand per annum for Crawler Tractors would be 1,000 machines during the Fourth Five-Year Plan and in 1973-74, 1,400 tractors would be required.

(b) (i) *Wheel Tractors.*

Industrial licences have already been issued for a capacity of 30,000 nos. p.a. Eight new schemes for a total capacity of 68,000 nos. p.a. have been approved in principle and five more schemes for a total capacity of 43,000 nos. p.a. are at present under various stages of consideration.

(ii) *Power Tillers*

One scheme for a capacity of 3,000 nos. p.a. has already been licensed. This unit is under production since 1965. Three new schemes for a total capacity of 23,000 nos. have also been approved and one of these units has since withdrawn its scheme for a capacity of 12,000 nos. p.a. and the Letter of Intent issued to the unit is being cancelled. Besides, two more schemes for a capacity of 25,000 nos. p.a. have been approved in principle and another two schemes for a capacity of 15,000 p.a. are under consideration at various stages.

(iii) *Crawler Tractors*

Four firms have been licensed with an optimum capacity of 1,000 nos. machines per annum.

The shortfall in the supply over the demand will continue to be met by imports as heretofore to the extent foreign exchange is available.