

things were not being dealt with expeditiously there should be a way to give proper redress in a quick manner. This committee has been set up for that purpose. It has been meeting and dealing with these questions as they arose. Therefore, the difficulty to which the hon. Member referred has now been met.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know the number of disputes which have come before this committee by now and the number of disputes settled so far?

Shri Nanda: The committee does not settle them. The committee sorts out the procedure and takes steps so that the machinery which is functioning on behalf of the Government does not create any delays and it also settles some general principles which will apply to all cases.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there is any time-limit fixed for the committee to consider and submit its report as in the case of the labour officer under the Industrial Disputes Act? Where the committee does not give its findings, is there any other method like referring the issue for reconciliation?

Shri Nanda: There is no question of a report here. This arrangement is to facilitate the working of the normal machinery. That is not part of the normal machinery for settling disputes. The employing Ministry deals with its employees and the Labour Ministry steps in in certain cases at the appropriate time. There may be certain matters which may have repercussions on other employees also. These things may be considered by this committee. The procedure should be such that it should give satisfaction all round.

Shri Tangamani: A labour officer has to submit a report, whenever an issue is referred to him, within fifteen days. Is there any such stipulation for this committee to submit its report?

Shri Nanda: Whatever time-limits are there, they will apply. Therefore, this committee is not intended to add

to the delays. There is no question of delay arising on account of this. It has been constituted in order to help the procedures which are otherwise established.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the Labour Ministry will step in case this committee fails to reach a settlement?

Shri Nanda: It does not deal with disputes.

Mr. Speaker: It only helps to bring the parties together.

Import of Tractors and Agricultural Implements

+

*1225. { Mr. Achar:
Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised their classification of tractors and agricultural implements as non-essential goods for import purposes;

(b) whether Government have received any representation to reconsider this change;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, to what effect?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Tractors used to be one item. This has since been sub-divided into tractors above 50 H.P. and below 50 H.P. However, there has been no classification as non-essential.

(b) to (d). Representations have been received for liberalisation of the import policy with regard to tractors. These representations are under consideration and will be kept in view while framing the policy for the next licensing period.

Shri Achar: May I know whether this new classification will affect the agricultural implements?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): This new classification is based on this division. Below 50 H.P. useful for agricultural work and above 50 H.P. for earth moving equipment, construction works and other things.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the number of tractors below 50 H.P. in our country, the acreage ploughed by these tractors, the requirements of the country and the capacity of these tractors to plough?

Mr. Speaker: Four questions in one!

Shri Satish Chandra: All these questions may be addressed to the Food and Agriculture Ministry.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know the number of tractors imported during 1957-58 and the countries from which they were imported?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The number of tractors imported in 1957-58 according to the provisional figures is 1215. The overall imports in the whole year had been worth Rs. 5 crores. Details for the last six months are not fully available. They are imported practically from all the countries of the world, including the United Kingdom, Germany and the Soviet Union.

Shri Achar: May I know the value of the agricultural implements imported in 1957-58?

Shri Manubhai Shah: From April to December 1956 about Rs. 5,09,11,000 and Rs. 3.82 crores from January 1957 to September, 1957 for agricultural tractors and parts. The horse power is not very well classified but these are all for agricultural purposes.

Shri Ranga: Is any distinction being made between the spare parts and the tractors? Is any preference being given to the imports of spare parts so

that the existing tractors can be serviced more easily?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is precisely the policy at present.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether any steps have been taken for the manufacture of these tractors and agricultural implements in India?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as agricultural tractors are concerned, there is already one factory in production in Madras and another is coming up in Calcutta. We have also recently notified and are collecting applications in respect of other tractors. There is a panel for co-ordination with the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, Irrigation and Power and our Ministry which will look into this aspect.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Is there any plan to build these tractors in the country, because I think that before stopping import it is necessary to start building tractors here?

Shri Manubhai Shah: What I replied was that we have a plan to produce both agricultural and non-agricultural tractors in the country.

Shri Kamal Singh: May I know the names of the tractors that are being made?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are different varieties of tractors. As far as Standard Motors people are concerned, they are, I think, in collaboration with Fergusons, and Mahindra and Mahindra are in collaboration with David Browns.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know the rated capacity of these two units?

Shri Manubhai Shah: One unit which has gone into production has a capacity of 2400 tractors. The other one has not been yet licensed as to what will be its capacity; it is under discussion.