

(b) whether the proposal is for manufacturing small or big tractors; and

(c) how its costs would compare with those of the foreign tractors?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Punjab Government's plan to manufacture tractors at the Government Central Workshop, Amritsar. If so, Government of India have not received the final views of the Punjab Government in the matter.

(b) The tractors planned to be manufactured are of the one cylinder, 4 stroke, engine type with a Horse Power of 22 at 1,500 revolutions per minute, and can, therefore, be classed as small tractors.

(c) Precise information is not available.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited

***2029. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French firm with which the Government entered into a contract to effect improvements in the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., has failed to abide by the terms of the contract and the shipyard has suffered as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the main points of contract which have not been carried out and the loss accrued to Government on this account; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). It cannot be said that the French Technical Consultants of the Hindustan Shipyard have failed to abide by any of the terms of the contract. However, Government are of the view that technical assistance provided by the French firm until recently was not entirely satisfactory; particularly the Technical Officers deputed to the Shipyard, who had made their own estimate of the rate of output and delivery dates possible, were unable to assist and organise effectively so that the deliveries indicated could be fulfilled. It is not possible to estimate exactly what the Shipyard could have achieved with better technical advice. No estimate is possible therefore of the loss sustained by the Shipyard because of the output not keeping to the schedule indicated. The two top French technicians who were in charge so far have been replaced and the number of French technicians in the Shipyard has been increased. The Shipyard is also in a correspondence with the French Consultants regarding further steps to be taken in this connection.

Slum Clearance

***2030. Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government on the recommendation of the Conference of Ministers for Housing held in June, 1955 regarding the grant of subsidies to the various States for the clearance of slums etc.; and

(b) which of the States have been given subsidies so far?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) The recommendations of the Housing Ministers' Conference on this subject are receiving the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Iron and Steel Prices

***2031. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1595 on the 8th September, 1955 and state the basis on which the maximum base prices for Iron and Steel now charged by Registered Producers, Controlled Stockholders and others are determined?

The Minister of Industries (Shri Kanungo): Registered Producers' sale prices are fixed on the basis of (i) Retention Prices payable to the Main Producers fixed on the basis of Tariff Commission's recommendations and (ii) a surcharge which accrues to the Iron and Steel Equalisation Fund. The prices chargeable by the Controlled Stockholders and the Registered Stockholders are higher by Rs. 30 and Rs. 45, respectively, per ton over the Registered Producers' sale prices and represent their respective remuneration.

Tea Production

***2032. Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of tea is to be increased during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether acreage restrictions of tea gardens are to be modified for the purpose; and

(c) whether the East African plantations have joined in the matter of restrictions of acreage of tea gardens along with the other participants in the International Tea Agreement?