

(b) whether there is increase in demand of power tillers;

(c) the steps taken to provide for its increased use; and

(d) the bottlenecks in implementing the Scheme if any and the corrective action taken?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) As per Livestocks Census 1972, there were 17,200 power tillers in use in India. Taking into consideration the distribution of power tillers out of indigenous production, power tillers in use in India are estimated as 22,010 for 1974-75, 24,197 for 1975-76 and 25,896 for 1976-77. On the above basis, the number of power tillers in use in Tamil Nadu is estimated as 2,106 for 1974-75, 2,494 for 1975-76 and 2,733 for 1976-77.

(b) The production and sale of power tillers show that there is a decrease in the demand.

(c) The power tillers currently manufactured in the country are marketed with rotovators, ploughs, cultivators, ridgers, trailers etc. These are also being used for spraying, pumping, levelling, seeding with suitable attachments. Efforts are being made by the manufacturers and research institutions to develop new implements and attachments.

(d) The major bottleneck in the increased use and adoption is the relatively high cost of power tillers. The steps taken by the Government in cost reduction and popularisation are:—

(i) Power tillers have been exempted from excise duty of 1 per cent.

(ii) Efforts are being made to reduce the cost of power tillers through standardisation of power tiller components/parts.

(iii) The State Agricultural Universities, State Departments of Agriculture and the Agro Industries Corporations are promoting the use

of power tillers through demonstrations etc.

(iv) Medium and long term loans are provided to farmers for purchase of power tillers.

Agro-Service Centre

5657. SHRI VENUGOPAL GOUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of the Agro-Service centres;

(b) the number of Centres which have been set up in various States including Tamil Nadu;

(c) the number of youngmen with technical back ground employed in the centres in various States including Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the results of the evaluation of the performance by these centres?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The functions of the Agro Service Centres are to provide integrated services and supplies in the rural areas, depending upon the local needs. The main objectives are:—

(i) To provide self-employment opportunities to technical personnel.

(ii) To provide vital technical services to the farming community in the rural areas.

(b) As on 30-6-1977, 2910 centres have been set up in the various States out of which 64 centres have been closed, 180 centres have been established in Tamil Nadu.

(c) The number of youngmen with technical background employed in Agro Service Centres in Tamil Nadu as on 30th June, 1977 is indicated below:—

(1) Degree in Engineering	87
(2) Post Degree in Engineering	3

(3) Diploma in Engineering	127
(4) Diploma in Agril. Engg.	3
(5) Degree in Agriculture	23
(6) Post Degree in Agril.	3
(7) Post Degree in Agril. Engg.	1
(8) Ex-servicemen	6

Similar information for the other States is not readily available.

(d) In order to undertake an in-depth assessment of the performance of the Agro Service Centres in Tamilnadu, a study has been entrusted to the Tamilnadu Agril. Productivity Council, Madras and their final report is awaited.

An evaluation of the working of the Agro Service Centres was undertaken in the month of March, 1977 in the different States through Agro Industries Corporations, who have a Training Cell for Training Entrepreneurs for the setting up of Agro Service Centres. The broad results of the evaluation are indicated below:—

(i) *Investment.*

Medium term loan or cash credit has been advanced by commercial Banks, upto a limit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per entrepreneur. The overall average investment of an Agro Service Centre comes to Rs. 1.00 lakh. The total investment for 2846 Centres amounts to Rs. 28.00 crores (Approx.)

(ii) *Employment generated.*

Besides the entrepreneurs themselves, the Agro Service Centres have generated employment to technical and non-technical personnel also. On an average each Agro Service Centre provides employment opportunities to 4 to 5 persons.

(iii) *Farmers' Services.*

On an average each agro-service centre provides services to 300 farmers per year.

(iv) *Quantum of Work*

On an average the yearly working hours of the agricultural machinery of entrepreneurs are as follows:—

Tractors	..	989 hours
Power tillers	..	552 hours
Pumping sets	..	510 hours

(v) *Trading activities.*

The main business of the entrepreneurs in custom hiring of tractors (combines also in Punjab). Some are also engaged in trading activities such as seeds, fertilisers, spare parts for tractors, agricultural implements. The annual turnover per centre on all these items is estimated to be approximately Rs. 3 lakhs.

(vi) *Financial results.*

Centres running in profit	76%
Centres running in loss	11.44%
Centres on which information is not available.	12.56%

(vii) *Investment by entrepreneurs themselves.*

All entrepreneurs are investing their own funds also ranging from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 per entrepreneur.

Study of Land Reform Centre at Gokhale Institute of Politics, Poona

5658. SHRI P. V. PERIASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the study stated to have been referred to the research centre named 'Land Reform Centre' in the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona regarding a complete review of the law and the manner of implementation relating to fragmentation and consolidation of land holdings; and

(b) the probable period within which concrete action as a result of the studies will be launched?