

Punjab where there is the highest number of tractors in the country and still it has not adversely affected the employment potential in the rural area, but has helped substantially in raising productivity and production;

(c) whether the Planning Commission propose to undertake studies in depth before adoption of new policy;

(d) how the black cotton soil and hard soil in the country is proposed to be cultivated without the use of tractors;

(e) whether reduction in cost of cultivation and cost of production can be achieved without the use of tractors and whether the double or multi-purpose crop strategy will succeed without the use of tractors; and

(f) has the Planning Commission consulted the State Governments where tractors are being used to a considerable extent about their full experience or whether Planning Commission is going to be guided only by academic theories and considerations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (f). The view of the Planning Commission is that the use of tractors is justified in limited situations like very difficult terrain, reclaiming large tracts of land for the first time and difficult land shaping. It also does not object to their use for ploughing etc. so long as cheap institutional credit is not made available for tractorisation and the present excise duties and the import restriction affecting the tractors are continued.

This view of the Planning Commission is based on the findings of the various available studies including those carried out in States like Punjab where the use of tractors is relatively more and on the urgent need to tackle the rural unemployment problem. The Planning Commission feels

that the findings of the studies which show higher productivity or cropping intensity on tractorised farms are often biased as they wrongly attribute the productivity effects to the tractor which are not really due to it.

As the Planning Commission considers the available studies to be suffering from several defects, it has decided to undertake a fresh properly-designed field study and as part of this study also to consult the State Governments where tractors are widely in use to identify the true effects of tractorisation. It is willing to modify its present views, should this study so warrant.

However, Government is not opposed to the use of tractors in black cotton or hard soils in the country, nor have they imposed any restriction on the use of tractors generally by the farmers for cultivation.

Fodder Resources

3513. SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how does the Planning Commission contemplate to raise the fodder resources to meet the full requirement of draft power—through bullocks; and

(b) how does Planning Commission propose to use the available fodder resources which are in short supplies either for dairy animal and production of more milk or for providing draft power?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.