

(b) Information regarding distribution of imported wheat to Roller Flour Mills and for public distribution system is not readily available. However, there has been no sale of imported wheat in the open market by the Food Corporation of India.

Danger of Exotic Plantation

4578. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the dangers of exotic plantation of the tropical American "Mazgut" tree in Rann of Kutch and parts of Rajasthan deserts;

(b) whether the ecological experts have paid attention to the paper by Prof. Dr. G. M. Oza of M. S. University, Baroda in his Report to United Nations Environment Programme during the Special Survival Commission 55th meeting that these Mazgut trees exotic plantation is a big danger to the indigenous wild ass species found in Indian deserts;

(c) what are the latest estimated figures of wild desert ass species in the Rann of Kutch; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to avoid danger to this species from the exotic plantation of tropical American Mazgut trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMI-NATHAN): (a) There are no reports of any such danger.

(b) There is no reliable evidence that Mesquite trees pose a danger to the Wild Ass of the little Rann of Kutch. On the contrary, the pods

of the Mesquite trees are a favourite food of the wild asses.

(c) The last census of wild asses in the Rann of Kutch was conducted in 1976 which showed population of about 720 animals.

(d) Does not arise.

Crisis in Tractor Industries

4579. SHRI B.V. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Tractor Industry, the World's 3rd largest has suddenly fallen in deep crisis following a severe credit squeeze effected in November, 1981;

(b) if so, whether the credit crisis caused the retail sales in December and January last to slide to level 35 per cent below previous years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been reported that unless clear and immediate instructions are given to the Commercial banks for the restoration of agricultural credit not only will the tractor and ancilliary industries be saddled but uncertainty will affect the farmers decision during the ensuring resultant season;

(d) if so, whether the Agriculture Ministry have taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry for this; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMI-NATHAN): (a) to (e) In the context of the need to curb inflationary pressures on the economy, the Reserve Bank of India had to take several measures to contain the volume of credit expansion and to reduce the liquidity in the economy. Available