

(b) if so, whether Government have made any plan to train them and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) Yes, the increase in the number of untrained Pharmacists is marginal.

(b) Training of Pharmacists is linked with the training of Para-medical personnel in general, responsibility for which rests with the State Governments. They have been requested to organise refresher courses for practising Pharmacists (Untrained).

Import of Tractors

4037. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import tractors;

(b) if so, the number and names of the countries with whom contracts have been made; and

(c) whether the tractors manufacturing units in India are not in a position to meet the demand of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). While every effort is being made to increase indigenous production to meet the demand of the country, the question of the need for import of tractors in all its aspects in this connection is also under examination. As no final decision has been taken regarding import of tractors, the question of contracts with any country for the same does not arise.

Wool Industry

4038. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual wool production,

(b) the number of people employed in Wool Industry; and

(c) the facilities provided by Government by eliminating middlemen increasing the average herd to an economic unit and by giving breeding marketing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The estimated wool production in 1986-69 was 37.60 million Kg.

(b) According to 1971 Census, an estimated number of 342,800 workers were engaged in sheep industry. Of these 2,02,400 workers were engaged in sheep and wool production and 140,400 workers in processing of wool and manufacture of carpets, blankets, woollens textiles, etc.

(c) A programme of sheep shearing, wool grading and marketing was initiated in Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, with U.N.D.P. assistance. In some of the States wool is being departmentally procured, graded and thereafter auctioned; while in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh wool is being graded on behalf of Khadi and Village Industries Board or Woollen Mills. This programme is proposed to be expanded in the Fifth Five Year Plan which will help to eliminate the middlemen to some extent.

The programme of sheep development is being enlarged under the Fifth Five Year Plan and States have been advised to take up sheep development on package programme basis in selected areas providing for improved breeding, disease control credit and marketing facilities. Sheep production