

Supply of tractor to farmers during fourth plan

1704. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether target of supply of tractors to farmers for the fourth plan has been fully met; and

(b) if so, number of tractors supplied to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):
(a) No target of supply of tractors to farmers was fixed by the Government of India.

(b) The number of tractors supplied to the farmers upto January, 1974, is as under:—

Imported tractors . . .	45,500 Nos.
Indigenous tractors . . .	94,942 Nos.
Total . . .	<u>1,40,442 Nos.</u>

Offer to Sri Lanka for plant breeding and food research

1705. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an offer has been given to Sri Lanka for the training programme in the sphere of food research and plant breeding; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):
(a) No such specific offer has been made. However, it was agreed between Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka that India would extend assistance wherever possible to Sri Lanka for the development of the latter's sugar industry and provide facilities for training. Both countries will exchange information on the subject. India will consider Sri Lanka's request for training their personnel in

sugar-cane improvement and sugar technology. Both countries agreed that it would be desirable if they were invited to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences to be held in either country on the subject. A representative of the Government of Sri Lanka will also be invited for participation in the Workshop on Soya Bean.

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of essential commodities in Gujarat and Bombay

1706. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities like foodgrains etc. were highest in Gujarat and Bombay as compared to other States;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check upward trend of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):
(a) In Gujarat, prices of all important foodgrains except gram are higher than those in other States. As in Bombay city statutory rationing has been in existence in regard to some of the foodgrains, prices data are available only for bajra. At Bombay, prices of Bajra are higher than those prevailing in other cities.

The prevailing prices of groundnut oil, sesamum seed and sesamum oil in Gujarat and Maharashtra are not higher than those ruling in other parts of the country and at times they have been even lower.

(b) The main reasons for the higher level of foodgrains prices are:—

(1) decline in the production of foodgrains during 1972-73 due to