

radioactivity regularly conducts extensive surveys to ensure that the activity absorbed by the population in the nearby villages, both on shore as well inland, is much below the permissible levels.

Increase in Prices of Tractors

223. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that soon after Government lifted price control on tractors, ESCORTS has jacked up prices of its tractors by over Rs. 4,000 thus affecting the agriculturists;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto; and

(c) the reason of lifting price control on tractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) Yes, Sir. But even then these tractors are cheaper by around Rs. 2500 than those of comparable performance and horse power.

(b) and (c). Government watches the price movement of a product as a whole in the relevant context of price behaviour of related products as also the correlation of demand and availability. Statutory price control was substituted by price surveillance in order to harmonise a certain degree of operative elasticity to the manufacturers and the need to maintain prices at a socially desirable level. Price surveillance has now been limited to preferred models of tractors who are supposed to function as price-leaders in their respective horse power ranges as, in the light of the market situation and production trends, it will not be possible for the other manufacturers to price their tractors above these which will continue to be under surveillance. As a result, vigilance over the price trends would have been effectively maintain-

ed through the process of exercising actual surveillance over selected models of tractors.

Defence Activities in Pakistan

224. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence preparedness in Pakistan has recently been stepped up and feverish preparations are being made;

(b) whether Government have taken note of this sudden spurt in defence activities in Pakistan; and

(c) whether adequate precautions have been taken against possibilities of premature attacks by Pakistan as in the past?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (c). Government keep abreast of developments in Pakistan having a bearing on our security and such developments are taken into account in our defence planning.

Utilisation of Industrial Licences

225. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial licences issued during the last three years in each one of the States/Union Territories; and

(b) the number of such among them, State-wise, as have been utilized and the units set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) A statement showing the state-wise break-up of Industrial Licences issued during 1973, 1974 and 1975 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library See. No. LT-10399/76.]

(b) The commissioning/implementation of a project normally takes