

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this project and how it compares with the several proposals so far under examination by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Govt. of Gujarat that a Jamnagar firm proposes to establish a small scale unit for the manufacture of small cars. The State Govt., who were approached by the firm, have informed them that no licence or permission is required from the Government of India or the State Government for establishment of an unit with capital investment in plant and machinery up to Rs. 7.5 lakhs. The firm have not stated anything about the price of the car but the press reports indicate that the small car would cost about Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 15,000/-. It is not known whether the element of excise duty and other taxes has been taken into consideration. The State Government have stated that all assistance within the framework of rules will be rendered to the firm whenever it approaches them.

The firm has not given any detailed scheme or project report. It has, therefore, not been possible to compare the scheme of this firm with the other schemes for the manufacture of small car received by Government.

Manufacture of Tractor in collaboration with Export and Ford Motor Car Co.

333. SHRI S. R. DAMANI :
SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have granted permission recently for the signing of a joint collaboration agreement between Escorts and Ford Motor Car Co. of the U. S. A. for the manufacture of 50 HP tractors;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) whether in view of the acute shortage of lowpowered tractors in the country, Government have proposed the inclusion of

such tractors in their manufacturing programme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). M/s Escorts Ltd., Faridabad propose to manufacture 'Ford' 46 HP agricultural tractors for a capacity of 6,000 Nos. per annum in collaboration with M/s. Ford Motors Company of U.S.A. Government have approved in principle the collaboration agreement submitted by the Indian firm. It is not considered desirable to disclose the terms of collaboration negotiated between the two parties as these form part of a contract between to private parties.

(c) and (d). The Government has already approved in principle two other schemes in the private sector for the manufacture of small tractors (up to 20 HP) for a total capacity of 20,000 Nos. per annum. A proposal for the manufacture of small tractors in the public sector is also under consideration. For these reasons, Government did not consider it necessary to ask M/s Escorts to include low powered tractors in their manufacturing programme.

Sub-division of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes

334. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :
Will the the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some people have demanded that further differentiation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes should be done so as to make still smaller sections of these classes;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined merits and demerits to this proposal and, if so, the conclusions reached; and

(c) whether Government are of the view that the attempts of the people to sub-divide Harijans should not be encouraged and, if so, the policy followed in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DE-