

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Government have not seen the particular press report referred to. However, Government are aware that report have been appearing in U. S. papers that Messrs Napco Industries Inc. of Minneapolis sold old and worn out machinery to their collaborators in India at a price much higher than the real value of the machinery.

(b) It is understood that the proceedings have been launched by the U. S. Department of Justice.

(c) and (d). Government had also received complaints that the machinery offered by the American collaborators was very old, unsatisfactory etc. etc. After having carefully examined the complaints Government had stipulated in the approval given to the foreign collaboration that arrangements should be made to ensure *Interalia* that the machinery is inspected on arrival in India and any machinery found defective would be replaced by the foreign firm at their own cost. This inspection, however, could not take place since the matter had, in the meantime, gone to the court of law.

Subsequently, on receipt of another complaint that the Indian firm had failed to make timely payment of instalments, of loan and interest to U. S. AID Authorities, the Punjab Government, acting on the mortgage deed executed by the firm took physical possession of the firm on 9-4-1967.

Any further action in the matter has to await disposal of the cases concerning this firm in the law courts.

Ban on Import of Agricultural Implements

2202. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suddenly banned the import of

various agricultural implements such as tractor harrows and disc ploughs with the result that these implements are now sold at fantastic rates in the blackmarket;

(b) whether it is a fact indigenous of harrows and disc cannot meet manufactures the sudden demand because of the terrific short supply of high carbon steel in their manufacture ;

(c) whether Government would consider the proposal to step up the import of the special steel needed for this purpose till such time as the indigenous supply is fully available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) The import of agricultural implements is not allowed to Established Importers in terms of the current import policy for April, 1969 to March, 1970. However, there is a provision for import of agricultural implements for Rupee payment countries in the Trade plan and imports are arranged through the state Trading Corporation on the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture. The import of agricultural implements is also allowed under the Gift Scheme of tractors to the agriculturists along with the tractor.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Government have allowed import of Special Steel by Disc Manufacturers to the extent of their requirements.

Shortage of Wagons during Fourth Plan

2203. **SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :**
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there will be shortage of wagons in the later years of the Fourth plan ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?