

**Import of Ford Tractors by M/s. Escorts**

4592. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of Ford Tractors has been recently allowed to M/s. Escorts under the plea that this tractor is approved for indigenous manufacture;

(b) whether the basis for the import of Ford Tractors contradicts the statement that Industrial Licence/Letter of Intent granted to M/s. Escorts does not constitute an authorisation under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969;

(c) whether the import allowed to M/s. Escorts (a dominant undertaking) for Ford Tractors constitutes a preferential treatment to this company; and

(d) whether Government have considered any proposal to restrain M/s. Escorts from taking effective steps towards the implementation of the Industrial Licence till clearance is obtained by this company under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) There is at present a gap between the demand and indigenous production of tractors. In order to fill this gap, import of tractors, for the makes and models which have been approved for manufacture in the country, is being arranged to the extent possible. Arrangements for imports are made by the Department of Agriculture after taking into account the overall demand and the estimated indigenous production of tractors. For the year 1969-70, import of 35,000 No. of fully built up tractors had been agreed to. Against this clearance, only 850 Nos. of Ford-3000 tractors are being imported through the State Trading Corporation in knock-down condition. Although the facilities available at Escorts would be utilized for assembly of the tractors, their distribution would be through the State Agro-Industries Corporations and not through Escorts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No import of Ford Tractors has been allowed to Escorts. Import of 850 Nos. of Ford-3000 tractors out of total lot of 35,000 tractors through the State Trading Corporation does not constitute a preferential treatment to M/s. Escorts Ltd.

(d) M/s. Escorts Tractors Ltd. have applied to the Department of Company Affairs under Section 22 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for approval of their proposal for establishment of the undertaking for the manufacture of Ford Tractors. Their application is, at present under the consideration of the Department. In their application the company have contended that in view of the steps taken by them to implement the scheme before coming into force of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, on 1st June, 1970, the provisions of the said Act are inapplicable in their case. In any case, the company have already been informed that the Industrial licence granted to them does not, in any way, constitute an authorisation under the said Act and that, wherever applicable, such permission or clearance, as may be required under the provisions of the said Act, should be obtained by them before instituting any effective steps for implementing the industrial licence.

**Import of Tractors by M/s. Escorts Limited**

4593. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2121 dated the 24th November, 1970 and state:

(a) whether Messrs Escorts, a dominant undertaking have been allowed import of Ford Tractors to the extent of about rupees one crore;

(b) whether such high value import licence granted to this company, when clearance under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969 has not been obtained by this concern, constitutes contravention of the present policy of Government; and.