

recently. The term of the Project has been extended till 31.12.1990. 15 projects were taken up under the AERD programme at various institutions in the country in the areas of biomass production and conversion, coal conversion, energy efficiency in industry and transport sector, micro hydel and information exchange.

A Project Grant Agreement has been signed between the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) and US Agency for International Development on 31.8.1987 concerning a project titled "Programme for Acceleration of Commercial Energy Research (PACER). The project will be implemented by the ICICI under the overall direction of an Energy Research and Development Advisory Committee (ERDAC) set up by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The USAID contribution as per the Project Grant Agreement will be about US \$ 20 million for this project for the period upto 30.6.1993. The project is designed to support selected research and technology development efforts in the energy sector with emphasis on renewable sources of energy by providing financial as well as technical assistance towards equipment, training and study tours.

Manufacture/Export/Price of Tractors

*178. SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY. Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors manufactured in 1988 so far;

(b) the number of tractors exported;

(c) whether any norms have been fixed for fixing the prices of tractors so as to make them available at reasonable prices to the farmers; and

(d) whether any subsidy is given to the State Agro Industrial Corporation for purchasing tractors?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Industry has reported production of 74,936 tractors till September 1988.

(b) During 1987-88, the number of agricultural tractors exported was 107. They were exported to Angola, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Improvement in performance of Public Sector Units

*180. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any particular areas have been identified with the object of bringing about improvement in the performance of public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) concrete plans mooted in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Grant of more autonomy to the public sector management, modernisation, upgradation of technology, financial restructuring, avoidance of time and cost over runs and reduction of excess staff are some of the areas where greater attention is being paid to improve the performance of public sector units. The White Paper to be placed before Parliament will