

it up with the Tamilnadu Government so that necessary action is taken by the Government to recover the arrears of sugar-cane prices.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Self-Sufficiency in Medium and Small Size Tractors

*1711. DR. SARADISH ROY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great shortage of medium and small size tractors in the country ;

(b) whether these tractors which are in short supply are readily available in black market ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check black market on these tractors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAIHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has come to the notice of the Government that in certain cases, tractors sold to farmers in some States are being resold by them to purchasers in the same and other States at a premium.

(c) With a view to eliminating possible blackmarketing in tractors, the Government is making available a substantially large number of imported tractors through the Agro-Industries Corporations. The prices of these imported tractors are fixed by the Projects and Equipment Corporation. Import of tractors as gifts from Indian relation living abroad has also been allowed with a view to easing the supply position. Besides steps are also being taken by the Government to step up indigenous production of tractors in the country. In order to arrest the mal-practices prevalent in the trade. The Government has also under consideration the promulgation of a Control Order on sale and distribution of tractors. This order is likely to be promulgated soon.

Payment of Compensation to Private Entrepreneurs for Diamond Mines in Panna District of Madhya Pradesh

*1720. SHRI NARENDRA SINH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private entrepreneurs from whom Government have since taken over the Diamond Mines in the Panna District of Madhya Pradesh, have been paid compensation ; and

(b) if so, the total amount paid to them so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANG-ALAM) : (a) and (b). The diamond mines in question have not been taken over by the Government from private entrepreneurs. The question of paying any compensation, therefore, does not arise.

Setting up of a Steel Plant in Kozhikode Region of Kerala

*1721. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of setting up a steel plant in Kozhikode region of Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANG-ALAM) : (a) The Geological Survey of India are yet to complete the investigations on the Kozhikode iron ore deposits. A view can be taken on any investment proposal only after the investigations have been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Assistance for Implementation of Small Irrigation Schemes

*1722. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance either as loan or as grant given by the Central Government and each of its sponsored financial