

For all the reserved vacancies in Group 'D' suitable candidates among SCs and STs have been selected and would join very shortly.

(c) and (d). The number of officers sent

abroad by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers for training, conference, seminars and inspection during the last three years and the number of SC/ST officers among them are given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of officers sent abroad for training conference and Inspection</i>	<i>No. of SC/ST Officers sent abroad for training, conference and Inspection</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1987-88	23	3
1988-89	15	1
1989-90	4	Nil

Appointment of Rubath Officer In Saudi Arabia

521. SHRIG.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a 'Rubath' (hostels) officer in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details of the functions and powers of the said officer;

(c) whether the officer would be stationed in the Indian Embassy, or would function independently; and

(d) the time by which the said officer would be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d). Rubath officer has taken charge in Consulate General of India, Jeddah, since 29.5.1990. He is a part of the Consulate General. The Rubath officer is to make exhaustive enquiries about

the present condition of various Indian Rubaths in Saudi Arabia so that these Rubaths are retrieved or revived for use by our pilgrims.

[*Translation*]

Distribution of Agricultural Machinery to Farmers

522. SHRI MANJAY LAL:
SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA:
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide agricultural machinery to the small farmers of the country at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of farmers category-wise likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the proposed new scheme are:

- (I) It is proposed to lower land owning limit for loan for tractor from 8 acres to 4 acres. This will, however, be done only for small tractors of below 18 power take off horse power.
- (II) Farmers in the category of 4 to 8 acres of holdings should be given bank loans for such tractor sets at reduced rate of interest.
- (III) A subsidy of 30% for purchase of such tractors and their ancillary equipment with a maximum limit of Rs. 30,000/- per tractor set will be given to eligible farmers of between 4 to 8 acres and for tractors below 18 power take off horse power. The amount is proposed to be used from the existing crop schemes for a limited number of cases. The decisions at I and II are under consideration with the Ministry of Finance and that at III is being processed for sanction.

(c) The new scheme is under consideration of the concerned Ministries and final decision will be issued soon.

(d) During the financial year 1990-91 it is proposed to sanction subsidy for 500 Nos.

of tractors to even number of farmers having land holding between 4 to 8 acres.

Primary Rural Markets In Rajasthan

523. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of the primary rural markets functioning in Rajasthan to ensure remunerative prices to the small and marginal farmers for their produce;

(b) the allocation made during the Seventh Five Year Plan for establishment and maintenance of primary rural markets in Rajasthan and the reasons for non-utilisation of the funds allocated for this purpose;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government has submitted proposals for setting up additional primary rural markets in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Government of India provided central assistance to the State Government of Rajasthan to develop infrastructural facilities in 427 Primary Rural Markets. It is reported by the State Government that work in 280 Primary Rural Markets has been completed, work is in progress in respect of 33 Primary Rural Markets and 52 Primary Rural Markets are functioning. District-wise number of Primary Rural Markets functioning in Rajasthan is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Central assistance was not released during Seventh Five Year Plan period to establish new Primary Rural Markets in