

**Scheme to Supply Tractors on Hire Basis  
To Farmers**

- \*269. Dr. SUSHILA NAYAR :  
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD  
MANDAL ;  
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM ;  
SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEE-  
RAPPA :  
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of such States where the scheme to supply tractors on hire to farmers has already been enforced:

(b) the names of States where this scheme is likely to be started during the year 1970-71; and

(c) the financial aid given to the States by the Centre in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A scheme for establishment of Agricultural Machinery Hiring Centres in different States during the Fourth Plan has been finalised and such centres have already been started in the states of Assam, Mysore, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Jammu and Kashmir and the Goa Administration.

(b) The scheme is likely to be started during 1970-71 in the rest of the States beside the Union Territory of Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

(c) The scheme would be financed on 50% equity and 50% loan basis. The Central and State Governments would contribute in equal proportion towards the equity share capital of the Agro-Industries Corporations under whom such Centres proposed to be set up. The loan would be provided by the Government of India to the State concerned depending upon the need of the State Corporation for loan assistance. Thus, the Government of India

would be prepared to meet the requirements of the additional funds needed by the State Corporations upto 75%.

**Post Offices in Rural Areas**

\*270. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that before opening new Post Offices in rural areas, it is considered that such Post Offices will be profitable and that atleast the expenditure would be recoverable in the initial stages ;

(b) if so, whether it will be possible to open Post Offices in far located and remote rural areas, and whether the cases of thousands of Post Offices are lying pending for many years for the same reason; and

(c) whether Government will consider the possibilities of relaxing its rules and regulations/conditions for opening new Post Offices at least in rural areas, if so, when and if not, why not ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) Post Offices are opened in rural areas even if they entail a loss within certain permissible limits ranging from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 2500/- subject to their fulfilling certain conditions regarding population, distance to the nearest post offices etc.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, post offices in far located and remote rural areas are being opened irrespective of conditions of population and distance to the nearest post office, provided the annual loss does not exceed Rs. 1000/- and in special cases Rs. 2500/-. Some proposals however for opening post offices in such areas, not fulfilling the standards, are at times kept pending as there are prospects of interested parties meeting the deficit.

(c) The conditions for opening of new Post Offices are already quite liberal consistent with the financial position of the Postal Department. In fact, the Tariff