

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). Immediately on complaints, Technical Teams were sent to Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat to look into these and as a result of the findings of the Technical Teams, the complaints were discussed with the G.D.R. manufacturers who subsequently carried out several investigations into the complaints both in India as well as in G.D.R. As a result of these enquiries, they agreed to carry out certain modifications and improvements. Modified parts for five tractors have been received and the tractors on which these have been fitted are under observations. They have also agreed to carry out similar modifications and improvements on all other tractors that have been supplied to the various Corporations and this work is under progress.

Inspection Reports in respect of RS-09 Tractors Imported from German Democratic Republic

*112. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tractors supplied by East German Government (G.D.R.) proved defective and most of these tractors failed to operate more than 60 hours ;

(b) whether inspection report submitted by the Director of Tractor Training and Testing Centre, Budni, M.P., Director Tractor Training Centre, Hissar, and Director of Agricultural Implements, Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture enumerated complaints regarding large-scale defects and failure of G.D.R. tractors ; and

(c) if so, whether the report will be placed on the Table ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) There were complaints against the performance of RS-09 Tractors.

(b) and (c). A copy of the reports submitted by the Director, Tractor Training and Testing Station, Budni, Tractor Training Centre, Hissar and Director of Agricultural

Implements, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Department of Agriculture) is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4249/70] The reports indicate certain defects in these tractors. The G.D.R. manufacturers have agreed to remove some of the manufacturing and design defects on the engines, clutch, etc. and have supplied some plane loads of modified components for replacement on the tractors already distributed. They have also sent 20 or more/engineers to attend to these modifications and have supplied large quantities of warranty spares. The warranty periods for these tractors have also been extended. The modifications in tractors are in progress.

Removal of Defects in Tractors Imported from G.D.R. and Imparting of Training of Indian for Their Repair

*119. SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of East German tractor manufacturers had recently come to India to deal with the complaints about G.D.R. tractors sold to farmers ;

(b) whether they had inspected the defective tractors ;

(c) if so, their views on the complaints about the tractors ;

(d) whether the defects have since been rectified ; and

(e) whether the G.D.R. tractor manufacturers have offered to train Indian technicians and engineers in G.D.R. for the proper use and servicing of the tractors and whether the offer has been accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (e). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A copy of the press statement made by the GDR suppliers on the subject is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—4250/70]

(d) The GDR Suppliers have agreed to replace free of cost defective components by new/modified components in all the tractors sold to the farmers or held in stocks by the State Agro-Industries Corporations. They have also agreed to extend the warranty period suitably. Five modified tractors are already under field tests at different places with a view to assessing the overall utility of these tractors for Indian condition. One more tractor has also been sent to the Budni Station for test. The GDR suppliers have also brought in three plan loads of spare parts and new modified components for immediate supply on demand to the State Agro-Industries Corporations. They have also augmented the team of technicians by another 15 qualified persons, thus raising the total number of technicians to about 30. Besides a large number of Indian Technicians are employed in consultation with the Agro-Industries Corporations concerned in order to expedite the process of modifications. It is expected that a majority of tractors in the hands of farmers will be modified by December end. The performance is being closely watched and according to present indications, the performance of modified tractors under tests is better.

(e) Yes, Sir.

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण : मैं मन्त्री महोदय, से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पूर्वी जर्मनी से कुल कितने ट्रैक्टर मंगवाने का सोदा हुआ था और कितने आ चुके हैं ? और क्या उसके बाद पंजाब, आन्ध्र, महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात और तमिलनाडु के ट्रैक्टर खरीदने वालों और वहाँ के ऐगो इंडस्ट्रीज कारपोरेशन ने जो वहाँ की सरकारी संस्था है, यह कहा है कि पूर्वी जर्मनी से कितने ट्रैक्टर आये हैं वह बेकार है, वह काम नहीं करते, तथा वह चाहते हैं कि वह ट्रैक्टर वापस ले लिये जायें ? अगर इस तरह की शिकायतें आई हैं तो कितने ट्रैक्टरों के बारे में आई हैं ? पिछली बार जब यह प्रश्न एक ध्यान आकर्षण प्रस्ताव के द्वारा उठाया गया था उस समय यह शिकायत की गई थी कि ट्रैक्टर दोषपूर्ण हैं। उसके बाद भी ट्रैक्टर आते रहे हैं या उसके बाद उनका आना बन्द कर दिया था ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The original contract that the S.T.C. had entered into with G.D.R. was with regard to the supply of 7,000 tractors but actually 1,998 were imported. After we received complaints, the Government of India have taken a decision to suspend imports, and after the the Calling Attention Notice. to which the hon. Member referred, there have been no further imports. Government had taken a decision even a little earlier to stop imports. We have received complaints from many States—Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan etc.—and, as I said, a committee of experts was appointed to go into this, and their reports have been made available to the Member of Parliament.

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण : उन्होंने कहा है कि वापस ले लो।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As has been already explained, the suppliers have given an assurance that they are prepared to repair all these tractors and replace all spares at their cost and even extend the perioding guarantee. They have brought in 20 to 30 engineers from their country, and my latest information is that in Punjab they have repaired 207 tractors and they expect to complete the repair of all the tractors by the end of December.

SHRI RANGA : What about Andhra ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : To Andhra also the engineers are preceeding.

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण : इन ट्रैक्टरों की उपयोगिता के बारे में बुदनी में जो टेस्ट हुआ था उसमें वह दोषपूर्ण सिद्ध हो गये हैं और अब इन्जीनियर लोग यहाँ आकर उनके दोष दूर करने के लिए कह रहे हैं मन्त्री जी ने कहा है कि उन्होंने कुछ रिपेअर्स किये हैं, लेकिन इसके बावजूद यह शिकायतें मौजूद हैं। मरम्मत के बाद भी वह ट्रैक्टर काम नहीं कर सकते और वह उपयोगी सिद्ध नहीं हो सकते उनके प्रतिनिधि ने भी यह कहा है कि यह ट्रैक्टर ज्यादा सोफिस्टिकेटेड हैं और इस कारण किसान उनको चलाना नहीं जानते।

विशेष रूप से पंजाब के किसानों ने एक संगठन का निर्माण किया और कहा कि हमने बड़ी मेहनत से अपना सारा धन लगाकर यह ट्रैक्टर खरीदे थे, लेकिन उनसे उनको कोई फायदा नहीं मिला। वह चाहते हैं कि वह ट्रैक्टर वापस ले लिये जायें और उनको पैसा दे दिये जाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मन्त्रालय यह सब ट्रैक्टर वापस लेकर उनको पैसा दे देगा? साथ ही किसानों का जो नुकसान हुआ है उसकी क्षति पूर्ति करेगा। जब ये ट्रैक्टर ठीक हो जाये तब आप इनकी जिम्मेदारी लेंगे? अभी किसानों पर जो बोझ पड़ा है, इसको भी दूर करने की क्या आप कोशिश करेंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is true that a number of farmers have been put to inconvenience as a result of the defects that developed in the tractors. But as I explained they are being repaired. It is too early to come to the conclusion that they could not be operated properly. If later on we find that they could not be operated properly, the question can be gone into and ways and means can be found to help the farmer.

SHRI D. N. DEB : Even after defective parts were replaced by fresh spare parts, they could not work properly, especially in Punjab. In fact they have changed the engines completely in some tractors and yet it was found that they were not fit to work. Has the Government got any information? When the German engineer Mr. Pollis had been, he was informed about it and he said that he found in a repaired tractor the defect was not removed and the engine was still smoking. Have the Government got information about the problem of the farmers? In view of the farmers' difficulties due to delay in replacement of the tractors bought by farmers from money borrowed from banks or other sources and in view also of the fact that it affects food production will the Government take immediate steps to solve these difficulties and help the farmers?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : In the main part of my reply I have said that some of the tractors whose parts were replaced are under Government observation and we can examine what should be done if they

are not in a position to work properly. At the moment it is too early to draw any conclusion.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : May I know whether most of the tractors imported from G.D.R. could be worked, on an average, only upto sixty hours and not more and secondly, whether G.D.R. has refused to take responsibility for defects in the tractors? According to the Fourth Plan, 385,000 tractors would be necessary and if so would the Government import this type of defective tractors or will make some other arrangements or try to produce them indigenously in our country?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is true that some of these tractors could not be successfully operated. It is, however, not correct to say that no tractor could be operated for more than sixty hours. It is also not correct to say that the German suppliers have refused to repair the tractors. A plane-load of spares had been brought from East Germany and engineers are repairing these tractors.

As for the second part of the question, the broad estimate is that by the end of the Fourth Plan the tractor requirement in this country may be round about 1,80,000 annually. Government hope that to the extent possible this would be met indigenously; they will try to make up the shortfall by imports.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : While agreeing that the genuine grievances and difficulties of our real farmers should be removed, as far as the operation of these tractors is concerned, I would like the Government to have an enquiry into the agitation and campaign that is worked up or engineered by politician-farmers or farmer-politicians and some bureaucrats who are perhaps interested in too much politics and not in agriculture.

I will now come to my question. Is it a fact that although there were complaints from farmers from several States, there has been a continuous campaign—part of it is in Parliament also and also in the press, as for example, in the *Times of India* of yesterday in which there was a long article—especially in Punjab, and whether it is a fact that that is engineered by some of the top officials of the Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation, and

whether there was a demonstration of the tractor-owners where the volunteers from the American Peace Corps were present, and where some of the block development officers made speeches at the so-called farmers' meeting and that the actual tractor owners were only five or six? I want to know whether Government has got a report of such kind of activities going on. I am asking this question because something like 300 tractors were sold in Gujarat; these tractors were sold in Mysore also, and a few of them were sold to our friends in Tamil Nadu also. There were some snags, as you yourself have given in the statement that they have come forward to rectify the defects at their own expense, while some of the Agro-Industries Corporations have not yet fulfilled their part of the agreement in giving the servicing to the agriculturists in this country. I want to know whether Government have gone into that particular aspect and whether all the Agro-Industries Corporations have supplied the servicing machinery to the agriculturists as promised in the agreement. That is one part of my question.

Secondly, may I know whether Government have got such reports and whether this campaign in Punjab has any relation with the World Bank loan for the import of some thing like 8,000 tractors from some of the western countries, and there was too much of politics mixed up with this tractor affair? I would request the Government to see to it that too much politics at least is not mixed up with this really purely economic matter.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We have some reports of some demonstration having been organised in Punjab and we have also reports about the allegation that some of them may be motivated for political reasons. I really do not know whether they were motivated by politics or not. But one thing is true. There were genuine complaints from farmers about the unsatisfactory performance of these tractors. May I assure hon. Members that Government will not be influenced by any campaign carried on with political motives. We are concerned with the merits of the case, and it is necessary to look into this question from the point of view of making these tractors operate satisfactorily, and therefore, within that limited extent, we are trying to take up the matter with the GDR suppliers.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : There is too much talk in the press about the complaints of the GDR tractors. I do not have any interest in any bloc, but I have been the Chairman of the Tamilnadu Agro-Industries Corporation and I have certain information on this. We have been supplied about 100 tractors out of which we sold 12 to the farmers in our State six months ago at Rs. 14,500 each. Enquiries from the farmers show that these tractors are working satisfactorily. But there are certain difficulties in these tractors as well as one imported from abroad. These tractors do not present any good appearance and the price also is too high. It is only worth about Rs. 8000 or 9000. It is a sophisticated tractor and the driver should know all the parts. That is why there is complaint and because of the complaints in the press and in Parliament, we are unable to sell the remaining 88 tractors which are lying in our yards for the last six months. It is good that the minister has stopped the import of this type of tractors, which are not good for our country. Will they reconsider afresh the whole system of tractor imports? Why should they import only from one particular bloc? Why not invite world tenders so that we may get good tractors at a cheaper price?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is true that the problem of these tractors has raised some fundamental issues of scrutiny at various stages of the existing procedure in regard to tests at the Tractor Training and Testing Centre at Budni. We have appointed a committee of experts to go into this matter and find out where modifications are required in the existing procedure. Regarding imports from a particular bloc, there were some foreign exchange difficulties and cheaper tractors were available from the Eastern Bloc countries. They were also acceptable to our country. Excepting this, I do not think there was any occasion in the past where there were complaints, apart from isolated cases.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Why not imports tractors from Canada, U.S.A., West Germany and Czechoslovakia? They are willing to sell but the Government of India is refusing to buy from them.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Please

wait till I conclude. The tractors which will be imported in the future would be both from the east and the west.

MR. SPEAKER : Many members are interested in the next question about sugar prices but there are hardly 5 or 6 minutes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : You want this House to be converted into a sales lobby ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not been able to follow what all this fuss is about. It has become a very bad habit with you, Mr. Basu, that every day you get up and interrupt the proceedings on every little thing. *(Interruptions)* Kindly don't do it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : During the last four days I have not put even one supplementary question. It can be proved from the records.

MR. SPEAKER : But that does not mean that you should interrupt every hour.

SHRI HEM BARUA : I hope you do not want Shri Jyotirmoy Basu to go out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I will be happy if he goes out without protesting.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ, हमने जो लगभग 30 हजार ट्रैक्टर मंगाये हैं जो यहां पर इस देश में काम कर रहे हैं क्या उनका कोई इश्योरेन्स या गारंटी जर्मन सरकार से हमने ली है और जिन काश्तकारों ने बैंक से कर्जा लेकर अपनी गाढ़ी कमाई के पैसे से ट्रैक्टर खरीदे वह ट्रैक्टर ठीक नहीं चल रहे हैं तो क्या उनको कोई छूट देने का इरादा है ? दूसरी बात उन ट्रैक्टरों के मूल्य भी बहुत अधिक हैं, क्या उनमें भी कोई कमी करने का इरादा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as the warranty period is concerned, it is fixed and that period has been extended. As far as the other part of the question is concerned, I have already answered it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to a detailed press report which came out sometime in the last week of last month stating that in Punjab the complaints about these tractors have come mainly due to unskilled and untrained handling of the tractors mostly by the inexperienced operators ? I want a categorical answer. Secondly, I would request you, Sir, not to permit this House to be converted into a lobby.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA : We are quite competent to know how to handle tractors.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request him not to bring in politics in the matter of tractors. Also, do not bring in the question of skill or bad handling in Punjab. They are better than anybody else.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Sir, my question has not been answered.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : My earlier replies have covered the question which he has asked.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri D. N. Patodia.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गन्ने की फसल सर पर आ गई है और यह सवाल टलता जा रहा है। दूसरे प्रश्नों के ऊपर आप आधा आधा घंटा निकाल देते हैं, किसान की फसल जो सिर पर खड़ी है उसकी उपेक्षा कर रहे हैं.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो आप देख ही रहे हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : देखने से क्या होता है ? यहां तो यह स्थिति है कि जो आदमी आपका आर्डर नहीं मानते, आपके आदेश का उल्लंघन करते हैं उनको आप फिर दोबारा भवसर दे देते हैं, आपने इस हाउस में ऐसी परम्परा डाल दी है... ..

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शास्त्री जी आप के मुंह से यह अच्छा नहीं मालूम देता ।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या करें, कहना पड़ रहा है.....

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shastri should remember that it is not one question which is being answered. Four questions are being answered at a time.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : आपकी इस गद्दी पर आप से पहले बैठने वाले सरदार हुकम सिंह की यह परम्परा थी कि अगर उनके मुंह से नेक्स्ट क्वेश्चन निकल जाता था तो फिर आगे उस पर सवाल नहीं होते थे । फिर वह नेक्स्ट क्वेश्चन ही लिया जाता था ।

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry I cannot equal him. Further, the hon. Members are also of not that type in this House. I would request him not to be so much aspersive on these issues. After all, four questions are being answered at a time and I cannot be unfair to those hon. Members.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : जिनके चार थे वह सब पूछ चुके हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER : I have repeated a number of times that four questions are being answered at a time. If I give five minutes to each, even then they are entitled to at least 20 minutes. If you are interested in a question, what can I do ?

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : May I know what are the stipulations made in the contract with regard to inspection of these tractors before and after delivery and how is it that the defects of a basic nature consisting of sub-standard raw material could be detected only after being pointed out ? May I also know as to what are the stipulations with regard to the payment for these tractors how the payment is related to approval of the quality and whether there is a clause in the contract by which the Government can demand refund of the entire amount in respect of the rejected tractors ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As I

said, the contract was entered into by the S.T.C. The purchase is made by the STC from the GDR suppliers. There are some conditions in the contract regarding inspection but, as I said earlier, this tractor was tested in Budni station and found all right ; later on, though broadly the model was the same, important internal components were changed and only after putting the tractors in operation some of the major defects were detected.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : What about the payment part ?

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Invitations to Political Parties to Participate in A. I. R. Programme on East Pakistan

*92. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to undertake measures to bring home to the people of East Pakistan the fact that the exodus was not because of any communal tension there but it had political motives ;

(b) if so, the details of the measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken together with results ;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to invite members of different political parties and minority communities to broadcast over All India Radio in its programmes for East Pakistan ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Government of India have undertaken publicity measures to bring home to the people of East Pakistan the realities of the situation.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.