

**Import of Agricultural Implements by  
Agro-Industrial Development  
Corporation**

7101. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural implements imported by the Agro-Industrial Development Corporations of all the States each year during last three years indicating the amounts involved in such imports; and

(b) what type of implements and the countries from which these are being imported?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) None of the 17 State Agro-Industries Corporations have imported any agricultural implements during the last three years.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Rs. 160—Crore U.S. Oil-Bomb**

7102. SHRI SRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports published in the 'Blitz' dated the 10th March, 1979 under the heading 'Rs. 160 crore U.S. Oil-Bomb';

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points mentioned in the press report are as follows:

(i) The imported oil will be pumped into Gujarat which is one

of the principal producers of groundnut and edible oil in the country.

(ii) The imported oil will be sold to consumers through cooperatives and the sale proceeds will be utilised to run oil mills to be set up in the cooperative sector. Since Gujarat has already an idle capacity in the oil milling, it is difficult to understand the creation of more idle capacity by setting up mills in the cooperative sector.

(iii) This reconstruction has set off a confrontation between the organised oil mill sector and the farmers, mainly over the management of the project, handling of such huge funds, and the sharing of benefits

(iv) The oil miller's lobby no doubt is nervous about the intrusion of the cooperative sector in this field. They fear they will no longer be able to dictate terms to farmers or have effective control over prices of groundnut oil. The Gujarat Small Oil Mills Federation feels that the incentives proposed to be given to the cooperative sector would put the private industry at a great disadvantage.

(c) The exact position in respect of the above points is indicated below *ad seriatum*:

(i) In the initial stages, the project is proposed to be implemented in eight districts, five in Gujarat which is the most important groundnut growing State in the country, and three in other districts outside Gujarat. In due course the scope of the project will be extended to cover 20 districts in total which will spread over in States other than Gujarat also. The districts are still to be selected.

(ii) The main objective of the project is to generate funds by the sale of gifted oil and to utilise the