

**Revenue from Excise Duty on Tobacco Cultivation in West Bengal and Cooch Behar**

6362. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:  
SHRI B. K. DAS-  
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the total Central Excise duty collected by Government from Tobacco Cultivation in West Bengal and the District of Cooch Behar, separately during last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the names of the schemes for giving loans by banks to the Tobacco cultivators in West Bengal and District of Cooch Behar in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) The required information is as follows:—

Year	Total Central Excise duty collected from tobacco in	
	West Bengal	Distt. of Cooch Behar
	(Rs. 000)	(Rs. 000)
1969-70	9,37.59	37.88
1970-71	9,14.31	39.01
1971-72	9,97.74	47.11

(b) There are no special schemes for giving loans by banks to the Tobacco Cultivators as such, in West Bengal or in the District of Cooch Behar. However, Commercial Banks make available necessary credit for tobacco cultivation under the agricultural credit scheme, in accordance with their rules and procedures.

**Formation of Tobacco Development Corporation**

6363. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:  
SHRI B. K. DAS-  
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has finally decided to form Tobacco Development Corporation;

(b) if so, when such Corporation will be formed; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). It is proposed to set up a Tobacco Marketing Board for F.V.C. tobacco. The various details regarding its constitution, functions etc. are being examined so that the Board could be established at the earliest possible.

**Proposal to Establish Forecasting Centres in the Country**

6364. SHRI C. K. JAFFER  
SHARIEF:  
SHRI DHARAMRAO  
AFZALPURKAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to establish forecasting Centres in the country to forecast drought situations; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The India Meteorological Department issues forecasts of drought situation a few days in advance through its various forecasting centres in the country. The Meteorological Office, Poona, also issues every year three seasonal fore-