

.. Tobacco Cultivation in Punjab

143. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total area brought under tobacco cultivation in Punjab State during 1958-59; and

(b) the income accrued in excise duty therefrom?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The total area brought under tobacco cultivation in Punjab State during 1958-59 was 5,016 acres.

(b) Since the scheme of tobacco excise provides for retention of tobacco without payment of duty for five years, movement of tobacco in bond from one State to another and collection of duty from the licensee who ultimately clears the goods for home consumption, it is not possible to give the revenue derived from the 1958-59 crop. However, the revenue realised during 1958-59 in Punjab State from tobacco cleared for home consumption amounted to Rs. 56,64,933.00

Contract System in M.E.S.

144. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 203 on the 5th August, 1959 and state:

(a) the nature of further steps that are being taken to eliminate or minimise contract system in M.E.S.; and

(b) the value of work done through contract system and departmental labour separately in 1959-60 in M.E.S.?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha, as early as possible, after the end of the financial year 1959-60.

Expenditure Tax

145. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of assesseees registered during 1959-60 so far under the Expenditure Tax Act; and

(b) the amount of tax levied during the same period?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The number of assesseees registered upto 30-9-1959 is 7,767.

(b) The amount of tax levied from 1-4-1959 to 30-9-1959 is Rs. 21.12 lakhs.

Foreign Tour by Government Officials

146. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government officials who went out of India during the year 1959 so far;

(b) the purpose for which they went abroad;

(c) the total amount of expenditure incurred on them; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange released?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Requisite information is being collected from the various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

Wealth-tax Collections

147. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount of wealth-tax collected during 1959-60 so far?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): The total amount of Wealth-tax collected during 1959-60 upto 30-9-1959 is Rs. 1,58,13,000.