

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) The proposal has been remitted to a Committee of experts for consideration. The Committee has yet to submit its report.

(b) and (c). The Centre is intended for research and advanced training in modern methods of handling, drying, storage and processing of paddy or in short items that fall in the sphere of agricultural engineering. The details of the project are being worked out by the Committee.

Petrol Tax Share due to Maharashtra

2552. Shri Sonavane: Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a share of Rs. 3.5 crores from the Petrol Tax from the Central Revenues has remained unpaid to the Government of Maharashtra since 1958; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir. Payments aggregating Rs. 582.56 lakhs have been made to the erstwhile Bombay State and to the Government of Maharashtra after its inception, from the year 1958-59 to 1965-66. A sum of Rs. 45.00 lakhs may be paid during the current financial year 1966-67.

(b) Does not arise.

Dum Dum Airport Restaurant

2758. Shri Kolla Venkiah:
Shri Kishan Pattnayak:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the party to whom the catering contract for the restaurant at Dum

Dum Airport has been given this year;

(b) whether tenders were called for before giving the contract;

(c) if so, when; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the tenders for the next year are to be called for?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). The initial catering contract at Dum Dum Airport was awarded to Shri Shivji Velji Kothari on the basis of call of tenders on 1-7-1949 for a period of 2 years. Since, then, the contract has been extended from time to time, on the basis of satisfactory service rendered by the Caterer. The current contract is due to expire on 31-12-1966.

(d) A committee has recently been set up to go into the question of the basis on which award of catering contracts at the four international airports at Dum Dum, Delhi, Madras and Bombay should be awarded beyond 31-12-1966 and to make recommendations to Government. Further action will be taken after decisions are taken on the recommendations of the Committee.

Sugar Production

2554. Shri D. D. Puri: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 89 on the 1st November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether an assessment of the present condition of the sugarcane crop has since been made for the next sugar season;

(b) if so, whether Government consider that the crop conditions are satisfactory to ensure production of sugar in the next season at least at last year's level; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the maximum