

(b) The Soviet Government have undertaken to provide as a gift during 1966-68 equipment and agricultural machines required for setting up five State Farms.

SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

248. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision with regard to the setting up of an agricultural research service in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Not yet. However, the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has approved, in principle, of a proposal for the constitution of an Agricultural Research Service. The details of the proposal are being worked out,

LICENCES FOR COOPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES IN MAHARASHTRA

249. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposals to the Centre for the grant of licences for cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra.

(b) if so, the names of factories proposed by the Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) what action the Government of India proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI

ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has recommended the establishment of 21 cooperative sugar factories in that State.

(b) and (c) The names of the factories recommended by the Government of Maharashtra and the action taken/proposed to be taken is given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT

Position of the applications recommended by the Maharashtra Government for the establishment of Co-operative Sugar Factories.

Location with District	Present position
1. Manjari (Poona)	Letter of intent granted in 1966.
2. Kedgaon (Poona)	Rejection letter issued.
3. Kalampur (Nanded)	Letter of intent granted in 1966. Final licence under issue.
4. Sakri (Dhulia)	Letter of Intent granted in 1966.
5. Sangamner (Ahmednagar)	Do.
6. Shrigonda (Ahmednagar)	Rejection letter issued.
7. Dhoki (Osmanabad)	Licence granted in 1966.
8. Killari (Osmanabad)	This is pending for consideration.
9. Dongarkada (Parbhani)	Rejection letter issued
10. Basmathnagar (Parbhani)	This is pending for consideration.
11. Sillod (Aurangabad)	Rejection letter issued.
12. Sindkhed Raja (Buldana)	This is pending for consideration.
13. Kardi-Dhad (Buldana)	Rejection letter issued.
14. Shirala (Sangli)	Letter of Intent granted in 1966.

Location with District	Present position
15. Islampur (Sangli)	Rejection letter issued.
16. Shirol (Kolhapur)	This is pending for consideration.
17. Kagal (Kolhapur)	Rejection letter issued.
18. Nesari (Kolhapur)	Do.
19. Hotgi (Sholapur)	This is pending for consideration.
20. Shiravade (Satara)	This is pending for consideration.
21. Pusad (Ycetmal)	This is pending for consideration.

FEDERAL ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

250. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Federal Road Transport Authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) There is no formal proposal on this question under consideration at present. However, the Minister of Transport and Shipping had stated in a speech at Calcutta that it may become necessary eventually to think of a Federal Road Transport Authority with a national policy and enhanced resources but owned and administered jointly with the States and possibly also the private sector and working in co-ordination with Railways and other forms of transport like inland water transport and coastal transport. All relevant material in this connection is being collected after which a decision will be taken on formulating a proposal for consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS NEAR CALCUTTA

251. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fly-over being built at the junction of three National Highways near Calcutta has suffered a depression;

(b) if so, the cause of the depression; and

(c) the amount of loss suffered thereby?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) to (c) No fly-over is under construction near Calcutta, nor is one contemplated to be built during the Fourth Five-Year Plan period. Three road-rail overbridges are under construction at the junction of two National Highways near Calcutta. A short length (about 350 ft.) of an earthen embankment on the approach to one of these overbridges subsided in April 1966. The cause of this subsidence was the existence of a pocket of soft soil below the ground at this point. The approach embankments to the three over-bridges, which are about 9,000 ft. long, are standing undisturbed in the remaining length. As the earthwork on the embankments was still in progress, the subsidence was made good. The question of loss on account of the subsidence does not arise, as the required extra earthwork involved would, in any case, have been necessary even if the weak pocket had been discovered prior to the construction of the embankment.

MOTOR CAR LICENCE FEES

252. SHRI UTTAM SINGH DUGAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow owners of motor cars to deposit their licence fees in post offices in Delhi; and