

materials involved in the cultivation of these crops as well as their money-equivalents on a per acre and per maund basis.

Besides these surveys, the 'Studies in the Economics of Farm Management' conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, since 1954-55 in certain selected districts of nine States, viz., Punjab, Madras, U.P., Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra, Bihar, Orissa and Mysore have also provided information on the cost of production of major crops grown in the concerned regions, both on per acre and per maund basis. These studies are now in operation in three more States, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan.

Data on prices of agricultural commodities are also being collected by Government.

CONVERSION OF AURANGABAD AIRSTRIP INTO ALL-WEATHER AERODROME

288. SHRI BABA SAHEB SAVNE-KAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state by when it is proposed to convert Aurangabad Airstrip into an all-weather aerodrome?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): Aurangabad Aerodrome already has a cement concrete runway which can be used all the year round.

LAND UNDER BHANG, GANJA, OPIUM AND TOBACCO

239. SHRI BABA SAHEB SAVNE-KAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land are under cultivation of Bhang, Ganja, opium and tobacco in India in the year 1962-63;

(b) whether Government propose to bring any restrictions on the cultivation of these crops; and

(c) what income Government derive from the cultivation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAC SINGH): (a) The control over production and levy of duty etc. on Bhang and Ganja come within the purview of the State Governments. Information in respect of area under cultivation of these two crops during 1962-63 has not been received from the State Governments so far. The information in respect of opium and tobacco is as follows:—

Name of the Commodity	Area under cultivation (in hectares)
Opium	26,078
Tobacco	2,46,000 (up to Dec. 1962)

(b) No restrictions are proposed to be imposed on the cultivation of tobacco. As regards opium, the licensing policy for production is largely guided by international obligations to restrict it to medical and scientific needs.

(c) The income from excise duty on opium is earned by the State Governments and the Central Government only derive some profits on its export to foreign countries.

The revenue derived during 1962-63 up to January 1963 is Rs. 30.57 crores on unmanufactured tobacco and Rs. 19.84 crores on manufactured tobacco.

240. [Transferred to the 18th March, 1963.]