

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 1st May, 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR CHAIRMAN in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN

Shri T S A Chettiar (Madras)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*138 [For answer, vide cols 1138—1141 infra]

ARREARS OF HOUSE TAX ON BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT

*139 SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of house tax on built-up buildings occupied by the Central Government is payable to the New Delhi Municipal Committee has been outstanding for long on account of certain disputes,

(b) if so, what is the amount of the arrears, the nature of disputes and the period for which the amount has remained unpaid, and

(c) how and when a settlement is expected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M V KRISHNAPPA)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The New Delhi Municipal Committee has claimed a sum of Rs 148.74 lakhs as arrears due on account of house tax on Government buildings upto the 15th March, 1958. This amount could not be paid as the principles governing payment of house tax to the New Delhi Municipal Committee in respect of different categories of Government buildings were under consideration. These principles have now been decided and the accounts between the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the various

Government Departments will be settled as expeditiously as possible

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK What is the annual amount payable by the Government to the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

SHRI M V KRISHNAPPA I do not know the exact annual amount. The New Delhi Municipal Committee has informed us that the Government owes something like Rs 148 lakhs in the course of about seven or eight years.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK May I know, Sir, whether the Minister has got the information about the annual payment?

SHRI M V KRISHNAPPA I have not got information about the annual payment. I require notice.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK May I know how long these arrears are accumulating?

SHRI M V KRISHNAPPA Up till 1952 there was no dispute. After 1952 the New Delhi Municipal Committee claimed on a different basis. They wanted this tax to be paid on a revision of the value of the assets. The Department did not agree and there was a dispute about it.

श्री राम सहाय क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इतने अर्से तक यह टैक्स बकाया रहने का क्या कारण है और इसका सेटिलमेंट करने के लिये क्या प्रयत्न किया गया ?

श्री एम. व. कृष्णाप्पा सेटिलमेंट बहुत जल्दी हो जायेगा। एक डिपार्टमेंटल कमेटी इस पर बैठे थी और उसने एक रिपोर्ट भेजी है। एक एग्रामेंट हुआ है। बहुत जल्दी इसका सेटिलमेंट हो जायेगा। कारण यह है कि ब्रेसिस आफ टेक्स पर थोड़ा डिस्पूट था, इसलिए यह एरियर हो गया।