

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are receiving of late, reports from the representatives of various growers and also the trade that on account of indiscriminate imports, the prices of arecanut are falling down. We are receiving such reports.

Shri E. S. Murthy: May I know whether there is any truth in the allegation that the standard has gone down?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Our arecanut is of the most superfine quality, while the ones imported from Singapore and Ceylon are all wild crops grown in the forests.

Shri Punnoose: Have the Government received any representation from arecanut growers that the quantity of imports be reduced?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, we are receiving such reports.

Shri Damodara Menon: Have the Government taken any steps regarding these representations?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Not yet.

Shri Achuthan rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

MANGALORE AERODROME

*469. **Shri C. E. Iyyanni:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the aerodrome at Mangalore is over; and

(b) if so, when the air service at Mangalore will be available for use?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The aerodrome at Mangalore is nearing completion and it is expected that scheduled air services will start operating to and from Mangalore by the end of this Calendar year.

Mr. Speaker: Now question No. 470.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Question No 490 also may be taken up along with this.

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Sodhia present here?

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I believe it is convenient to the hon. Minister to answer both these questions together.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Yes, Sir.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT.

*470. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state which of the recommendations of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee have been accepted and implemented by the Government of India and the various State Governments?

(b) Which of the important recommendations are still under consideration of Government?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No decision has yet been taken by the Central and State Governments on the recommendations of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION

*490 **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have come to any decision on the recommendations of the Transport Advisory Council regarding motor vehicles taxation made in April 1951?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Attention is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 470 asked by Shri S. N. Das today.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the recommendations of this Inquiry Committee were considered by the Transport Advisory Council at any time, and if so, what were the decisions of the Advisory Council?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The decisions were considered by the Transport Advisory Council, and at present the whole matter is between the Technical Committee and the State Governments?

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when that Technical Committee was appointed, and by what time it was asked to submit its report?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It was appointed in August 1952, and has finished its deliberations. The report will be ready by December.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any ceiling for sales tax on petrol has been fixed according to the recommendation of this Advisory Council?