

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The Para-deep Port Project has been taken over as a Central Project with effect from the 1st June, 1965.

(b) (1) The Central Government will complete the Project and administer the Port when it is ready for operations.

(2) Before traffic operations are started, Paradeep will be declared a Major Port under the Indian Ports Act.

(3) The money invested by the State Government on the development of the Project till the date of taking over will be treated as a loan by the State Government to the Project to be repaid in due course when the Port is financially in a position to undertake such repayment.

(4) The Central Government investments will also be treated likewise and will be repayable by the Port Administration in due course.

(5) From the 1st June, 1965, all further expenditure on the Project will be the direct responsibility of the Central Government.

(6) From the 1st June, 1965, all the assets and liabilities of the Project will be taken over by the Central Government.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO BIHAR

31. SHRI P. C. MITRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains cerealwise supplied to the State of Bihar during the first quarter of 1965-66, from the Central stock;

(b) whether it is a fact that the gross quantity supplied was far less than the commitments made by the Centre earlier and that that contributed to a certain extent to the price rise of rice all over the State; and

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken from early July this year to replenish the State Government's food stock?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THIS MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): i.a)

Wheat—About 178,000 tonnes.

Rice—About 10,000 tonnes.

(b) Actual supplies of wheat during the first quarter of 1965-66 fell short of the allotted quotas by 25,600 tonnes. This was due to delay in arrivals of ships into Indian ports on account of a strike of longshoremen in the USA. The shortfall in actual supplies of rice was only 2000 tonnes. These marginal shortfalls are not likely to have contributed to the price rise of rice all over the State.

(c) During the month of July, the quantity of wheat actually supplied was 75,800 tonnes against the allotted quota of 65,000 tonnes. Steps are also being taken to build up sufficient stocks in the depots in Bihar.

PROGRESS OF VANAMAHOTSAVA

32. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the progress of Vanamahotsava since its inception and the number of trees planted and surviving so far; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check indiscriminate cutting of the trees for purposes of fuel in the rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Since its inception Vanamahotsava is being celebrated every year throughout the country as a National Festival and a large number of trees are planted all over the country. The number of trees planted and those

survived during the period 1950 to 1961 is as under:

	Planted	Survived
1950-59 .	38,15,46,831	19,25,89,531
1950 .	3,07,33,483	1,97,80,571
1961 .	1,76,69,017	1,19,51,435
TOTAL .	43,99,54,331	22,43,21,537

Information for subsequent years has not been received from all States.

(b) No direct steps can be taken by the Government of India to check the indiscriminate cutting of trees for purposes of fuel in the rural areas, as this is within the purview of the State Government. Protection is afforded to trees by State Governments under the Indian Forest Act/ State Forest Acts, in the forest areas and under revenue laws, regulations and executive orders in non-forest areas.

LOSS IN FOODGRAINS DUE TO PESTS AND DEFECTIVE HANDLING OF FOODGRAINS

33. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of annual loss in foodgrains due to pests and defective handling of foodgrains in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) There is no precise estimate for the loss in foodgrains as no systematic survey has been undertaken. In respect of stocks handled by the Government, however, the loss on account of loss of moisture, pest attacks and different modes of weighing is round about 0-2 per cent. There is no loss due to defective handling in the stocks handled by the Government.

(b) For the foodgrains handled by the Government better storage faci-

ilities in the form of rodent and damp proof godowns and modern flat and silo storage are provided. Possibility of pest attacks is minimised in these storages and scientific methods of fumigation are adopted when found necessary. In respect of the commercial stocks, the Warehousing Corporation and the Food Corporation of India are providing similar facilities. In addition, demonstration of better storage methods are being arranged in important markets for the benefit of private stockists. The State Governments have been advised to ensure adoption of pest control measures for the stocks by appropriate provision under the Foodgrains Licensing Order. For the control of rodent, a National Rodent Committee has been constituted. A scheme to educate the farmers in better methods of storage and guiding them in this work is under consideration.

AERODROME AT CALICUT

34. SHRI PALAT KUNHI KOYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 140 in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 1964 and state the progress so far made in selection of the site and construction of the aerodrome at Calicut?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): So far two sites have been found worthy of consideration. Enquiries are now in progress in consultation with the Collector and Central Public Works Department authorities to find out which of the two will be more suitable and easier and cheaper to acquire.

FOODGRAIN PRICES

35. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the prices of foodgrains in general and wheat in particular have not so far shown any fall when there has