

survived during the period 1950 to 1961 is as under:

	Planted	Survived
1950-59 .	38,15,46,831	19,25,89,531
1950 .	3,07,38,483	1,97,80,571
1961 .	1,76,69,017	1,19,51,435
TOTAL .	42,99,54,331	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 weighment 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-

lities 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 pests 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 whatever even when there has