

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government allocated Rs. 677-500 lakhs during 1966-67 to eight State Governments to enable them to strengthen the agricultural credit stabilisation funds of apex cooperative banks, so as to facilitate the conversion of overdue short-term agricultural loans from members of co-operatives in drought affected areas into medium-term loans.

**Partisan Attitude of Election Commission during the last Fourth General Elections**

**421. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allegations by the Opposition Parties of the partisan attitude of the Election Commission towards the ruling party during the last General Elections have been looked into;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri D. R. Chavan):** (a) to (c). Government has not received any allegations from any Opposition Party about the partisan attitude of the Election Commission towards the ruling party nor has it received any report of any such allegation from the Election Commission. The question appears to be too general as it does not mention any Opposition Party or Parties which has or have made such allegations or the authority to whom such allegations (if any) have been made.

**Second Drought in Madhya Pradesh**

**422. Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Press reports that Madhya Pradesh is threatened with second successive drought; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation arising out of the drought?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde):** (a) Government is aware that drought conditions exist in certain parts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The latest position about relief of distress created by drought conditions is as follows:

(i) About 20,000 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief daily.

(ii) 9,19,003 persons have been provided employment on 5,797 relief works.

(iii) A sum of Rs. 16 00 crores has been released during 1966-67 to the State Government as grants and loans.

(iv) Short-term loan totalling Rs. 493 40 lakhs have been sanctioned for purchase of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds.

(v) 1,000 tonnes of gift wheat have been allotted for free distribution amongst the old and the infirm and others who are unable to work.

It is proposed to depute a team of officials shortly to Madhya Pradesh to assess the situation and to make suitable recommendations for further relief measures.

#### **Calicut Aerodrome**

**423. Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2539 on the 29th November, 1966 and state:

(a) the further progress made in the preparation of plans and estimates for the construction of the Calicut aerodrome; and

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) The plans and estimates for the construction of aerodrome at Calicut have not yet been finalised.

(b) A decision to construct an aerodrome at Calicut will be taken after the results of the market research about traffic potential to this station, being carried out by Indian Airlines Corporation, are known.

#### Food Wastage due to bad storage

424. Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri D. N. Patodia:  
Shri K. F. Singh Deo:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of food output wasted due to bad storage in India is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce such wastage?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following steps have been taken to minimise the losses in storage:

(i) It has been ensured that all the pesticides and equipment required for protection against pests of foodgrains in storage are manufactured in the country and are readily available to the users.

(ii) Every possible effort is made to see that new storage godowns constructed are rodent and damp-proof. As far as farm storage is concerned, use of better rodent-proof recep-

tacles and fumigation of grains is being popularised.

(iii) A nation-wide 'Save Grain Campaign' was launched wherein scientific techniques of better storage were demonstrated in important grain markets and at some rural centres.

(iv) Training and research activities relating to grain storage have been encouraged and it is proposed to extend these facilities with the help of the United Nations Special Development Fund.

(v) Steps have been taken to make it obligatory on Roller Flour Millers, Rice Millers and Grain stockists to adopt pest control measures on their premises.

(vi) A Committee of experts has been constituted to assess the loss correctly and recommend to the Government the further steps to be taken to minimise the losses. This Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

#### Shortage of Milk in Bikaner

426. Dr. Karni Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of milk in Bikaner District of Rajasthan due to the purchase of milk in this area by the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) whether steps are taken to ensure that only milk in quantities remaining in excess of the local demand is diverted to Delhi;

(c) the progress made in regard to the proposals to start a milk supply scheme for the city of Bikaner; and