

(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