

(b) It is the declared objective of the Government of India to become self sufficient in foodgrains by 1971. The expectation is that it will not be necessary to import foodgrains thereafter.

#### Imports of Foodgrains

868. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chandhary: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains imported during 1966 and its value at Port;

(b) the amount spent on transport-in transit, storage and its value? shops including expenditure in bagging, godowning, storing, insurance, Railway freight, cartage and handling; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains lost in transit, storage and its value?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Corporation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The total quantity of foodgrains imported during 1966 is 103.58 lakhs tonnes and its C. & F. value is Rs. 523.31 crores.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 48.82 crores had been incurred in 1966.

(c) Transit and storage losses are assessed for a financial year and not for a calendar year. Even the losses so assessed relate not only to foodgrains imported during a particular year but also to foodgrains which may have been imported earlier and were in the Central Storage godowns. During the year 1966-67 the transit losses of foodgrains are estimated at 18.213 lakhs tonnes valued at Rs. 122.15 lakhs and storage losses at 3.210 lakhs tonnes valued at Rs. 24.5 lakhs.

#### Airport at Kumal (Kerala)

869. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for an airport at Kumal (Kerala) con-

sidering the importance of Tekkady, the tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A few sites inspected so far have not been found suitable. The Kerala Government have been requested to suggest other suitable sites for inspection.

#### Calicut Airport

870. Shri K. M. Abraham:  
Shri P. P. Esthose:  
Shri A. Sreedharan:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:  
Shrimati Susela Gopalan:  
Shri P. Ramamurti:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of an airport at Calicut in Kerala has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to construct the same?

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

(c) A site has been selected and the Indian Airlines Corporation are undertaking a study of the traffic potential of this place. The decision regarding whether to construct an aerodrome there will be taken after the results of the study are known.

#### Ernakulam-Tekkoy-Peeramede National Highway

871. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned to continue the construc-