

in Purum, Madras State is not being used;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal to close the Airport; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to develop the same?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) to (d). Indian Airlines Corporation have no plans to operate scheduled air services through Vellore in the immediate future and there is no proposal to develop the fair weather strip at Vellore, now being used by the Madras Flying Club training aircraft for cross country flying.

#### Paradeep Port

918. Shri A. Diga:  
Shri F. K. Deo:  
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:  
Shri Dhirendranath:  
Shri G. C. Naik:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the works of Paradeep Port project included in the first phase of the work have been completed; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). When the port project was taken over by the Government of India, the programme of work was reviewed and certain items of work deleted or modified. The approved programme has been so phased as to enable the Port to handle a traffic of two million tonnes of iron ore annually. Accordingly, the following main works have been completed and the port has been in commission since November, 1968:—

(i) Dredging of a lagoon with approach and entrance channels;

(ii) Two breakwaters to protect the lagoon and the approach channels;

(iii) Iron ore berth with a mechanised ore-handling plant;

(iv) Minimum requirements of buildings for office and staff.

2. Contracts have also been awarded for the construction of a trestle for the sand pump-cum-shore based dredger, a reclamation berth for the dredger and a slipway for the repair of floating craft. These works are not connected with the immediate operation of the port. However, all these are expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

3. Orders have been placed for a dredger, two harbour tugs and one sand pump-cum-shore based dredger. These are expected to be delivered by the end of 1967-68. The delay in the procurement of these items was mainly due to foreign exchange difficulties.

#### Wheat requirement of Orissa

919. Shri A. Diga:  
Shri Dhirendranath:  
Shri F. K. Deo:  
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:  
Shri G. C. Naik:  
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:

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

(a) the quantity of wheat demanded from the Centre by the Government of Orissa every month and supplied to Orissa by the Central Government every month since March, 1967; and

(b) in case the whole quantity demanded by the State of Orissa was not supplied, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Anveshik Ghosh): (a) and (b). Orissa Government requested for an allotment of 16,000 tonnes per month. In view of low arrivals and the need to maintain minimum supplies to the sparsely-affected areas, Orissa could be supplied only 2,000 tonnes in March.