

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4367

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

FOOD BANKS

Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of food banks set up for ensuring food security in the country, including Jharkhand, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to overcome food crisis?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): To provide safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamity like floods, etc. or lean season, Village Grain Bank Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution. So far, 16,478 Village Grain Banks (VGBs) have been sanctioned since 2005-06 in 20 States including 583 in Jharkhand. However, so far 10,224 VGBs are reported to have been set up as per reports received from State Governments. In 2005-06, the Government of India sanctioned 583 VGBs in the State of Jharkhand. So far, no report regarding setting up of the sanctioned VGBs has been received from the Government of Jharkhand. A statement showing the number of VGBs sanctioned by the Department and established, as reported by the State Governments is annexed.

Government has taken the following steps to increase production and procurement of food grains in the country :-

- (i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched with an estimated outlay of Rs. 25000 crore during 11th Plan period for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors including foodgrains so as to achieve 4% growth in agricultural sector during 11th Plan period.
- (ii) A Centrally sponsored scheme named National Food Security Mission has been launched in selected districts so as to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses in the country by 10, 8 and 2 million tons respectively by the end of 11th Plan. An outlay of about Rs.5000 crore has been approved for this scheme during the 11th Plan.
- (iii) In districts other than those covered under the National Food Security Mission, Integrated cereals Development Programme in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems is in operation.
- (iv) Minimum Support Prices for paddy, wheat and coarse cereals have been increased.
- (v) Other administrative measures have been taken to regulate exports and imports of cereals and pulses.

For availability of food grains at affordable prices, and for maintaining food security in the country to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been making allocation of food grains @ 35 Kg per family per month under the Targeted Public Distribution System for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families at highly subsidized prices. Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of population.

The Government has also been making allocation of food grains under various other welfare schemes such as Mid Day Meal, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Welfare Institutions/Hostels, SC/ST/OBC/Hostels, Village Grain Bank, Annapurna and Emergency Feeding Programme.