

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1435  
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012  
VILLAGE GRAIN BANKS  
Shekhawat Shri Gopal Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up village grain banks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which it is likely to be beneficial in providing food security to the villages particularly, poor villagers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Government has been implementing village grain bank scheme since 1996-97. Initially the scheme was launched in tribal villages by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 13 States and was implemented through Tribal Cooperation Marketing Federation of India Ltd. an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. However, its objective was expanded in 2001-02 and it was extended to all the endemic, drought and migration prone areas with concentration of tribal population and also in other non-tribal areas. Since 24.11.2004, the scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution. This Department has so far sanctioned 21,751 Village Grain Banks to 20 States.

The Village Grain Banks Scheme provides safeguards against starvation during period of lean season or natural calamity, when marginalized food insecure households do not have sufficient resources to purchase rations. Such households in need of food grains, can borrow food grains from the Village Grain Banks set up within their villages to be subsequently returned to the Bank. The grain banks can be set up in food scarce areas like drought prone areas, hot and cold desert areas, tribal areas and the inaccessible hilly areas which remain cut off because of natural calamities like flood etc. About 30-40 Below Poverty Line/Antyodaya Anna Yojana families may form a grain bank. These villages are to be identified/notified by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. Foodgrains are loaned to BPL families @ one quintal per family under Village Grain Bank Scheme.