

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1872

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

GRAIN BANKS

Bheiravdanji Shri Gadhi Mukeshkumar;Kashyap Shri Virender;Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up village grain banks in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of districts where village grain banks have been set up or are likely to be set-up, State-wise;
- (c) whether foodgrains are to be distributed through these village grain banks to the families living below poverty line;
- (d) if so, the total quantum of food grains proposed to be distributed every year;
- (e) whether any impact evaluation of the scheme has been carried out by the Government recently; and
- (f) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

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)to(f): The Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of Village Grain Banks in chronically food scarce areas for Below Poverty Line/Antyodaya Anna Yojna families to provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity or lean season. As per guidelines of the Scheme, about 30-40 Below Poverty Line/ Antyodaya Anna Yojna families may form a grain bank. Such families who are in need of food grains can borrow food grains from such village grain banks set up in their villages. Government of India allocates food grains to State Governments free of cost for VGBs.

Based on the requests received from the States, so far 18,506 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 20 States by the Department of Food & Public Distribution since 2005-06. However, so far 11,245 Village Grain Banks have been set up as reported by State Governments. A statement showing number of Village Grain Banks sanctioned by the Department and established is annexed. Information on district-wise number of village grain banks set up by the State Governments has not been maintained in Department of Food & Public Distribution.

The total quantum of food grains allocated every year under the scheme for loaning to VGB member families depends upon receipt of proposals from the State Governments and their sanction.

Evaluation of the Village Grain Bank Scheme has been entrusted to an independent agency during the current year and is in progress.