

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:565
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
VILLAGE GRAIN BANKS
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) whether the targets fixed for setting up of Village Grain Banks (VGBs) during the 10th and 11th Five Year Plans could not be achieved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the targets fixed and achieved along with the targets fixed for the 12th Five Year Plan and the steps being taken for achieving the same;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for proper implementation of VGB scheme;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.565 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.05.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b) During the 10th Plan, 14,495 Village Grain Banks (VGB) were sanctioned against a target of 15,084 Village Grain Banks. During the 11th Plan period, 10,278 Village Grain Banks were sanctioned against a target of 12,823 Village Grain Banks. The shortfall in achieving the targets is mainly due to non-receipt of adequate eligible proposals from the State Governments. During the 12th Plan period, the target is for establishment of 6,021 Village Grain Banks. For achieving the targets, the State Governments/UT Administrations are requested to submit proposals for establishment of Village Grain Banks. This issue has also been raised in the review meetings held with them from time to time.

(c) & (d) As per the revised guidelines for the Village Grain Banks Scheme issued in January, 2008, the grain banks are to be set up in food scarce areas like the drought prone areas, hot and cold desert areas, tribal areas and the inaccessible hilly areas and those areas which remain cut off because of natural calamities like floods, etc. About 30-40 Below Poverty Line/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana families may form a grain bank. Village Panchayat/Gram Sabha, Women's Self Help Group or non-Governmental Organization with proven track record are eligible to set up a Grain Bank in natural calamity-prone, food scarce village or hamlet as identified by the State/ UT Governments. The scheme has two components, viz., food component and cash component. One quintal of foodgrains per BPL/AAY family is provided as a one time grant by Government of India.