

(ii) Additional releases of non-levy sugar quota were given during the quarter April-June, 2009;

(iii) Futures trading in sugar on NCDEX has been suspended to check speculative tendencies in sugar trade with effect from 27th May, 2009.

Apart from the above, the Central Government has also taken steps to augment sugar stocks by permitting import of raw sugar by sugar mills, and one million ton of white/refined sugar by designated agencies, at zero customs duty for a specified period under O.G.L. Besides, sugar mills have also been permitted to import raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme upto a specified period and sell the processed sugar in domestic market, subject to discharge of export obligation in subsequent period.

Village Grain Banks

766. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Grain Banks established in the State of West Bengal, during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released for setting up of above banks in West Bengal in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that VGB scheme has been revised recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute is helping in effectively maintaining Grain Banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) 420 Village Grain Banks (VGBs) have been sanctioned by Government and established by State Government of West Bengal during 2006-07 and 2007-08. For this purpose, Rs.283.19 lakh have been released. Details of VGBs established by the State Government and funds released are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Continuation of the Village Grain Bank scheme during Eleventh Plan period was approved in December, 2007 with an outlay of Rs.87 Crores.

(e) Village Grain Banks are managed by Executive Committee of each VGB. It is to ensure proper storage of foodgrains. A one time grant of Rs.6000/- for storage and other expenses is provided for each grain bank. The Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute has not been involved in maintenance of VGBs.

Statement

Details of VGBs established by the State Government and funds released

1. District-wise/Year-wise Village Grain Banks established in West Bengal during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

2006-2007			2007-2008	
Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of VGBs established	Name of District	Number of VGBs established
1.	Purulia	39	Bankura	57
2.	Bankura	54	Purulia	72
3.	Pachim Midnapur	24	Paschim Midnapore (Jhargram)	53
4.	Birbhum	06	Jalpaiguri	09
5.	Murshidabad	03	Malda (32)	11
6.	Burdwan	03	Uttar Dinajpur	04
7.	Darjeeling	03	Dakshin Dinajpur	17
8.	Jalpaiguri	03	Birbhum (16)	06
9.	Malda	12	Burdwan	06
10.	Dakshin Dinajpur	11	Murshidabad	04
11.	Uttar Dinajpur	10	H.O. (North 24-Parganas)	06
12.	24 -Paraganas (N)	02	H.O. Hooghly	05
TOTAL :		170	TOTAL :	250

2. Funds released by Government of India for setting up Village Grain Banks in West Bengal during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(Rs. In Lakh)

Sl.No.	Year	Number of VGBs sanctioned	Amount sanctioned and released		Total
			Cash Component*	Food Component**	
1.	2006-07	170	20.74	87.46	108.20
2.	2007-08	250	30.50	144.49	174.99
TOTAL :		420	51.24	231.95	283.19

* Released to State Government.

** Cost of foodgrains released to Food Corporation of India (FCI).