

(d) The Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns for FCI through Private Entrepreneurs under which a capacity of 127.64 lakh MT will be created in various States for safe storage of foodgrains.

Amendment in Essential Commodities Act

†620. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to repeal section 3/7 of Essential Commodities Act in view of unrest among the traders of the country on it; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal for repeal of Section 3/7 of Essential Commodities Act has been received by the Government.

Shortage of faculty in higher education

†621. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it had been highlighted in Pay Review Committee report that the greatest problem with higher educational institutions is shortage of faculty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of faculty posts lying vacant in central universities at present and the steps being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) In its Report, the Pay Review Committee (PRC) has stated that it had conducted a sample-study of 47 Universities (10 Central Universities + 29 State Universities + 8 Deemed to be Universities) spread over 19 States. More than 51% of vacancies in the grade of Professors, Readers and Lecturers in the universities were reported to be lying vacant in the said sample of universities. Number of Vacant positions are as given in Statement-I (See below).

Similarly, based on a study of 1401 colleges, according to the PRC Report 41% of the positions at the Lecturer level and 10% of those at the Reader level are lying unfilled. Vacancy positions are as given in Statement-II (See below).

(d) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), out of sanctioned strength of 13120 teaching staff in central universities, 4420 posts are lying vacant as on 1st March, 2010. Each Central University is governed by its individual Act of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.