

been finalized for creation of storage capacity of 52.32 lakh tonnes by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.31 and 15.49 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 3.5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. As per the guidelines of the scheme, the time period for completion of road fed godown is one year and for Railway Siding godown it is two years after acceptance of tenders.

**Pending cases in Assam**

\* 14. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pending cases in all the courts of Assam during last five years; and
- (b) the details of the steps taken to expedite disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The number of pending cases in all the courts of Assam during last five years, are given below:

Year	Pending as on 31st December
2006	41427
2007	42884
2008	44701
2009	45315
2010	40636
2006	185980
2007	218487
2008	229718
2009	232957
2010	244008

(b) In order to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases in Courts, Government has taken a number of measures as Govt. have requested all the Chief Justices of High Courts to launch a campaign to reduce pendency of cases in courts from July-December, 2011. Emphasis will be on disposal of old and petty cases on priority.

The Gauhati High Court has informed that various steps for early disposal of all cases with special emphasis on the disposal of old pending cases are being taken. Lok Adalats, Holiday Courts are also being held for disposal of the cases in the Subordinate Courts. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court has directed to hold Mega Holiday Court on 27.08.2011 as a one time measure, where each Judicial Officer will handle about 400 cases. Cases are also being disposed of through mediation. Under 13th Finance Commission a grant of Rs.24.22 crore has been released to Assam by way of instalment for the first financial year. This grant will be utilized for setting up of morning / evening / shift / special magistrates' courts, appointment of court managers, establishment of ADR centres and provide training to mediators / conciliators, organise more Lok Adalats to reduce pendency.

#### **SC directive on foodgrains distribution**

\*15. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directive to release foodgrains to prevent starvation deaths and malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to implement the directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 - PUCL v/s UOI & Others on Right to Food, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its order dated 14.5.2011 has directed that as a one-time measure, it is absolutely imperative in the larger public interest, to reserve 5 million tons of foodgrains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of our society. The Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System (CVC on PDS) headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa has been requested by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to identify the poorest districts or poorest segments of society and ensure that additionally allocated foodgrains reach this segment from time to time.

2. Pursuant to the above orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the recommendations received from the CVC on PDS, additional allocation of 2,57,336.67 M.Ts of rice and wheat have