

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. However a Bill, namely, "Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill was passed by the Parliament and notified in the Gazette of India, on 20th September, 2007 as "The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007". The provisions of the Act have come into force with effect from 25th October, 2010.

(b) Provisions of The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 have already come into force.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Committees on storage of foodgrains

806. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many committees have been formed on storage of foodgrains during the last 30-40 years;

(b) which are those committees and their responsibilities;

(c) whether all the reports and recommendations have been received;

(d) the status of those reports, so far; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The committees formed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution on storage of foodgrains, as per available records include a Steering Committee on introduction of modern technology in handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains which was constituted in August, 1997. A Task Force was also constituted in May, 1998 to direct, oversee and coordinate implementation of the recommendations of the aforesaid Steering Committee in an integrated manner. The Task Force was to formulate a draft Grain Handling Policy for the country keeping in view the recommendations of the Steering Committee and a vision for the year 2020. Also a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food and Public Distribution) has been set up to monitor creation of additional storage capacity for storage of Central stocks of foodgrains for Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes and for prudent management of Central Pool stocks of foodgrains.

(c) Yes Sir. However, the committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food and Public Distribution) monitors and expedites the creation of additional storage capacity and it

holds regular meetings. There is no final report or recommendations to be received from this committee.

(d) A National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains has been notified in July, 2000.

(e) Under this policy, integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities are to be created by FCI at identified locations in producing and consuming areas through private sector participation on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

The salient features of the policy are:

- (i) Encouragement of mechanical harvesting, cleaning and drying at farm and market level.
- (ii) Transportation of grains from farm to silos by specially designed trucks.
- (iii) Construction of a chain of silos at receipt as well as distribution points.
- (iv) Transportation of grain from silos to railhead and thereafter to pre-determined destinations by specially designed trucks/rail wagons (with top filling and bottom discharge mechanism)/dedicated trains.
- (v) Declaration of foodgrains storage as infrastructure.

Tax evasion in commodity futures exchanges

807. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the reports that some of the commodity futures exchanges in the country are helping the tax evaders;
- (b) whether Government has carried out any probe into this allegation; and
- (c) if so, the outcomes thereof and the punitive measures taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Commodity futures market regulator, Forward Markets Commission has received complaints regarding alleged artificial volumes and tax evasion transactions in respect of some contracts listed in one of the National Exchanges.

(b) and (c) The investigation in respect of the same is underway. Based on the findings of the investigation, FMC will forward the information under Rule 13 of the Forward Contracts Regulation Rules, 1954 to the appropriate authority, *i.e.*, Income Tax Department, apart from initiating action that could be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.