

Sugar price equalisation fund

4826. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka Government has submitted any proposal seeking arrears under the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (SPEF) for the period 1994-2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has taken steps to release the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka, vide letter dated 9th June, 2010, had submitted a proposal to the Central Government for release of arrears amounting to Rs. 1,27,59,095/- (Rupees one crore twenty seven lakh fifty nine thousand and ninety five only) under the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (SPEF) for the period 1994-2002.

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has intimated that the said amount, representing 10 percent sugar deficit amount withheld by them, has been paid by their Regional Office, Bangalore on 29.8.2011.

- (e) Does not arise

Village grain banks in Karnataka

4827. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of village grain banks in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the Central Government has issued any guidelines for effective implementation of the said scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Karnataka Government has sought assistance for setting up of more village grain banks;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Central Government has released funds to the State Government under the said scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (g) After the transfer of the Village Grain Banks (VGB) Scheme to the Department of Food and Public Distribution by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in November 2004, this Department in February 2006 circulated guidelines of the Scheme to all States/Union Territories including Karnataka for sending proposals for establishment of VGBs as per the guidelines. The Government of Karnataka in September 2006 conveyed that the scheme would not be applicable to the State as there are no chronically food scarce areas in the State and also no tribal and hilly areas which are inaccessible during periods of drought and floods. Hence, the Central Government has not sanctioned/released funds to the Government of Karnataka for establishment of VGBs in the State till date. The guidelines issued by the Government gives, *inter-alia*, details of the scope and objectives of the scheme, the areas/regions where the Grain Banks can be established, the organisations eligible to establish the VGBs the methodology of implementation, funding pattern, monitoring and evaluation. As per the guidelines Grain Banks are to be established in food scarce areas such as drought prone, hot and cold desert, tribal and inaccessible hilly areas etc.

Introduction of electronic warehouse receipts

4828. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), formed by Government in 2010, has submitted regulations on introduction of electronic warehouse receipts to Government for consideration and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government on the recommendations of WDRA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has submitted draft of Warehousing (Development and Regulatory) Authority (Electronic Warehouse Receipts) Regulation, 2011 for approval of the Central Government as required under Section 51(1) of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation), Act, 2007.

As per Section 2(u) and 11(1) of Warehousing (Development and Regulatory)