

(e) and (f) Purchases are made by Government Procurement agencies through commission agents in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts of these States.

#### **Setting up of silos**

1285. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to engage private sector to set up silos of a total capacity of 2 million tonnes to augment grain storage with Planning Commission's assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has sought global assistance to build the state-of-the-art silos and entered build-own-operate (BOO) model with private firms; and

(d) if so, 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 Government has decided to create a storage capacity of two million tonne through construction of silos. This capacity will be part of the overall storage capacity requirements of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The silos will be constructed under the Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode for which FCI will be the nodal agency. At locations identified for construction of storage capacity by the FCI, if land is made available within three months by FCI, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporation (SWC), State Government or Central Government/State Government Agency, the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) route may be followed. If land is not made available, the silos will be constructed under the PPP mode through FCI without VGF. The concession period will be for 20 years, which may be extended by 10 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

#### **Decline in procurement of foodgrains**

1286. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in procurement of foodgrains by Government agencies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase procurement and their safe storage;

(d) whether there is any linkage between procurement, allocation and off-take of foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?