

(PEG) Scheme, out of which tenders have been approved for a capacity of 40.34 lakh metric tonnes and 33.37 lakh metric tonnes have been completed.

(d) Government procures foodgrains brought by the farmers on immediate payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP). The responsibility of safe storage of foodgrains after procurement rests with the Government, Hence, no assistance is given to the farmers for storage.

#### **Godowns under FCI and CWC**

4221. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to increase the number of godowns under Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC); and

(b) whether the Ministry encourages Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) To augment the number of covered godowns with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and also the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), the Government is implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme. Under the scheme the private entrepreneurs can also construct godowns. The FCI guarantees to hire godowns constructed under this scheme for a period often years, thereby, ensuring a fair return on the investment made. A capacity of about 197 lakh MTs as on 31.03.2013 has been approved for construction of godowns in 19 States. Further, for ensuring long-term scientific storage, the Government has also approved construction of 20 lakh MTs of storage capacity in silos within the overall sanctioned capacity of the PEG Scheme through the PPP mode.

Besides the PEG Scheme, the Government has finalised a Plan scheme especially for the North East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh MTs through the FCI, in the next 3 to 4 years. These capacities once created in the NE region, would take care of the storage requirements of about 3 to 4 months.