

[16 December, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

NCF recommendation for grain banks

2607. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended for the creation of Grain Banks in the district where National Food for Work Programme is under implementation;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what has been the impact of the creation of Grain Banks; and

(d) if Government did not implement it the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The National Commission on Farmers has recommended setting up of 10,000 Community Grain Banks to cover all tribal villages including 150 districts identified for "National Food for Work Programme" having more than 50% population belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities.

(b) The Scheme of Village Grain Bank was being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs upto 2003-04. Thereafter the Scheme has been transferred to Department of Food and Public Distribution for revision and implementation. The revised scheme proposes to cover persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as also the Below Poverty Line/Antyodaya Anna Yojana families in the food scarce areas like the drought prone areas, the hot and cold deserts, tribal areas and the inaccessible hilly areas. During 2005-06, a sum of Rs. 20.20 Crores has been allocated for setting up about 3471 Grain Banks in the country. During 2006-07 about 8591 Grain Banks are envisaged to be set up with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 50.00 Crores.

(c) An amount of Rs. 20.50 crore was sanctioned for establishing 4858 Grain Banks in 11 States by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In some States the scheme was implemented satisfactorily whereas in others the scheme could not take off smoothly for one reason or the other.

(d) Does not arise.

2608. CANCELLED

Agreement with manufacturers on drug price control

2609. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to arrive at