

The Gauhati High Court has informed that various steps for early disposal of all cases with special emphasis on the disposal of old pending cases are being taken. Lok Adalats, Holiday Courts are also being held for disposal of the cases in the Subordinate Courts. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court has directed to hold Mega Holiday Court on 27.08.2011 as a one time measure, where each Judicial Officer will handle about 400 cases. Cases are also being disposed of through mediation. Under 13th Finance Commission a grant of Rs.24.22 crore has been released to Assam by way of instalment for the first financial year. This grant will be utilized for setting up of morning / evening / shift / special magistrates' courts, appointment of court managers, establishment of ADR centres and provide training to mediators / conciliators, organise more Lok Adalats to reduce pendency.

SC directive on foodgrains distribution

*15. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directive to release foodgrains to prevent starvation deaths and malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to implement the directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 - PUCL v/s UOI & Others on Right to Food, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its order dated 14.5.2011 has directed that as a one-time measure, it is absolutely imperative in the larger public interest, to reserve 5 million tons of foodgrains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor and vulnerable sections of our society. The Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System (CVC on PDS) headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa has been requested by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to identify the poorest districts or poorest segments of society and ensure that additionally allocated foodgrains reach this segment from time to time.

2. Pursuant to the above orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the recommendations received from the CVC on PDS, additional allocation of 2,57,336.67 M.Ts of rice and wheat have

been allocated for three months to 45 districts in the States of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Manipur, Haryana, J&K and Rajasthan on 21st July, 2011.

Construction of godowns

*16. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the physical and financial targets set for construction of godowns during 2009-10 in respect of North-Eastern States as well as other States;
- (b) whether Government has achieved the targets;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to step up the construction work;
- (d) the quantum of foodgrains damaged during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11; and
- (e) the quantum of foodgrains still lying in open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) Due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage in Cover and Plinth (CAP) Government has formulated a Scheme in July, 2008 for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). As per the scheme, for the consuming areas, storage capacity is to be created to meet four month's requirement of PDS and other Welfare Schemes in a State. For the procurement areas, the highest stock levels in the last three years are considered to decide the storage capacity required. Based on this analysis and criteria laid down in the scheme, State wise capacity requirement and locations were identified, before work orders through a two bid tendering process for construction of godowns could be placed.

Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would give a guarantee for the storage charges on a long term basis and capacities to be created in the different States of the country were identified. Since rentals were to be paid under the scheme, no financial targets were set. Also, as per the guidelines of the scheme, the time period for completion of road fed godown is one year and for Railway Siding godown it is two years after acceptance of tenders.