

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1096
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2000
SURPLUS FOOD FOR MALNOURISHED POPULATION
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nearly 80 percent of all malnourished children in the developing world live in countries which are having food surplus;
- (b) if so, the percentage of malnourished children in the country;
- (c) the percentage of surplus food in the godowns of the country; and
- (d) the steps being taken to distribute surplus food amongst malnourished population in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUDHARI)

(a) No such specific information is available.

(b) The National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) had revealed the following percentage of under weight children of under nourished three years of age :-

Under weight (weight for age)	46.7%
Stunting (Height for age)	44.9%
Wasting (weight for age)	15.7%

(c) As per the buffer stocks norms 65 lakh tonnes of rice and 116 lakh tonnes of wheat is required to be maintained on 1st of October, each year. Against this 132.14 lakh tonnes of rice and 268.50 lakh tonnes of wheat was available in the central pool as on 1.10.2000.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government for increase availability of foodgrains to the poor at subsidised rates:-

(i) Under the Targetted Public Distribution System, Govt. has increased the allocation to Below poverty line (BPL) families from 10 Kg to 20 Kg of foodgrains per family per month from April, 2000. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has now been determined on the basis of population projections of Registrar General as on 1.03.2000 instead of earlier base of projected population of 1995.

(ii) The Government has also recently taken following decisions:

(a) To allocate foodgrains at BPL rates to State Government @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/ backward class students/homes for nariniketans etc. sponsored by the State Government and the concerned administrative Ministry of Government of India.

(b) To allocate foodgrains under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.

(c) To allocate foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of Government of India.

(d) To allocate foodgrains at the rate applicable for BPL families to the State Governments for undertaking 'food-for-work' programmes in the State, as also for the Greening India Campaign.

(e) To allocate foodgrains at BPL rates to development schemes, where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category, implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and the administrative Ministry in Government of India, as also by the international organisations like the World Food Programmes.