

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003

PER-CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the per capita consumption of foodgrains is less than the availability of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the per capita consumption of foodgrains of persons belonging to below poverty line and above poverty line in the country;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the consumption gap;
- (e) whether there is mass corruption in distributing the foodgrains among the persons belonging to BPL; and
- (f) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SREENVASA PRASAD)

- (a): The per capita net availability of foodgrains for below the poverty line and above the poverty line population is not being estimated separately.
- (b): Does not arise.
- (c): It is estimated that the average per capita consumption of foodgrains was 12.45 kg. per month in 1999-2000. The average per capita consumption of foodgrains of persons below the poverty line was 11.45 kg. per month in 1999-2000.
- (d): The allocation of foodgrains to both BPL and APL categories of population has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). However, TPDS is supplemental in nature.
- (e)&(f): No, Sir. For streamlining the functioning of the public distribution system and to make it more effective and accountable, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 had been issued. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. All the State Governments UTs have also been advised to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats Gram Sabhas in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas for the supervision and the monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the fair price level, as a measure of social audit.