

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2893
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
F.A.O. REPORT ON STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in its report on State of Food Insecurity warned that there are now 799 million people in the developing countries suffering from under-nourishment and majority of them live in India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to face this challenge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): In a publication issued by FAO in 2002 entitled 'The State of Food Insecurity in the World', FAO have reported that the number of under-nourished people in the world is 840 million out of whom, 799 million live in developing countries. This assessment is based on data for the years 1998 to 2000. The number of under nourished people in India has been estimated at 233.3 million.

(c): Ensuring Food Security in the country has been a major concern of Government since independence. The main constituents of basic food security-system in India are policies relating to promotion of domestic food-grains production, minimum support prices to farmers, procurement and storage, public distribution system and maintenance of buffer stock, etc. To reach food-grains to the poor a targeted public Distribution System has been introduced. Besides, schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana, etc. seek to provide free food-grains to destitutes not receiving old age pension. Mid day meal scheme, Annapurna scheme, Food for work programmes, etc. also seek provision of food to the poorer sections lacking purchasing power. It must be added that with a phenomenal improvement in food production and a comfortable food- grains stock, the major challenge is now to ensure that poorer sections get access to these food- grains.