

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1619

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY .

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the country is still facing major nutritional problems resulting in acute starvation;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government has conducted any study on household food and nutritional security for tribal, backward and hilly areas;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The steps taken by the Government to ensure the adequate quantity of food and to improve the situation particularly in the above areas? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Although the nutrition scenario over the last five decades has improved significantly, malnutrition/under nutrition is widely prevalent in the country. Chronic under nutrition among children, anaemia among high risk groups namely infants, pre-school children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women in particular and Vitamin A and Iodine deficiencies are still prevalent. However, no starvation death has been reported due to malnutrition.

(c) & (d): The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau of Indian Council of Medical Research has conducted surveys on Diet and Nutrition of the tribal population living in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, and West Bengal in the year 1998-99.

(e): For increasing overall availability of cereals, the Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme under Macro Management of Agriculture. A separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation for increasing productivity of these crops. National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission are under implementation for increasing availability of horticultural produce in the country. Tribal, backward and hilly areas are also included under relevant schemes.

For improving nutritional status, the National Nutritional Policy and National Plan of Action for Nutrition are under implementation in the country.