

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2526
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
Tripathi Shri Chandramani

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

- (a) whether the ongoing World Food Programme conducted in some States of the country with assistance of United Nations is likely to be discontinued in the coming financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the States likely to be affected by discontinuation of the said programme;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any programme to ensure that the benefits of the said scheme continue to reach the affected people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) is implemented as a five year programme. The current one comes to an end in March 2008. Then a new quinquennial UNWFP, 2008-2012 would start w.e.f. 1.4.2008, excluding two components of the present one, namely Food -for-Work Forestry and Food-for-Education activities.

(b): On account of agreed change in strategy from Food Delivery to Technical Assistance, duplication with Government Programmes (Mid-Day Meal, NREG etc.), decreasing level of external resources and recommendation by a Mid-Term Evaluation Mission (which led to discontinuation of the two components of UNWFP Programmes), seven States, namely, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and five States, namely, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand under Food-for-Work Forestry and Food-for-Education programmes, respectively, would be affected.

(c) & (d): The next UNWFP Country Programme, 2008-12 has been jointly envisaged by Government and UNWFP comprising three components viz.

(i) Capacity Development for Food Security,

(ii) Support to ICDS and

(iii) and Support to Livelihood Activity with emphasis on the following:-

(i) Optimizing Technical Assistance to ensure efficient functioning of national food based welfare schemes like fortification of ICDS food and locally cooked Mid-Day food, Village Grain Bank Management and Training, Atta fortification through village mills and strengthening of PDS.

(ii) Continuation of limited food delivery in support of ICDS in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(iii) Continuation of activities generating funds in the seven States affected by closure of Food-for-Work Forestry activity till March 2010.

(iv) Continuation of assistance to tribal communities in Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in partnership with International Fund for Agriculture Development.

(v) Targeting National Food based welfare scheme in States with above-average malnutrition rates for providing technical assistance, subject to fund availability.