

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
STARVATION CASES
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 23 crore people face starvation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether this situation is likely to further deteriorate in view of the current economic scenario; and
- (d) if so, the action plan formulated to tackle this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): As per the "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008" report released by FAO, it has been estimated that India is home to more than 230 million undernourished people (in 2003-04). No State-wise details have been given in the report.

(c)&(d): For addressing the problem of starvation, malnutrition and to mitigate the effect of poverty in the country, the Government has been implementing the following schemes for providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State/UT Governments:

1. Targeted Public Distribution System:

Government is allocating foodgrains at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under this, foodgrains are allocated to the States/UTs @ 35 Kg per BPL/AAY family per month. Depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central pool, foodgrains are allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) families also. Presently, allocations of foodgrains to APL category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month. During 2009-10, a quantity of 512.78 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under TPDS.

2. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting old age pension, are provided 10 Kg of foodgrains per person per month free of cost. 94,970 tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under the scheme during 2009-10.

3. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by the State Government of Orissa in eight KBK Districts of the State, rice at BPL rates are allocated to the State Government for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts. 18,000 tons of rice have been allocated under this scheme during 2009-10.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the Village Grain Bank Scheme implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Governments, foodgrains are allocated free of cost by Government to States. So far 18,692 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 20 States and foodgrains @ one quintal per VGB member are allocated.

5. The Government also makes allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs through the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development under Midday Meal scheme for providing food to school children studying in primary and upper primary levels. 27.75 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated under the scheme during 2009-10.

6. Under the Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State/UT Governments aimed at improving the nutritional status of children below 6 years of age and expectant/lactating women, 9.26 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated during 2009-10.

7. Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls is another programme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State Governments for improving the nutritional status of underweight adolescent girls in the age group of 11-19 years. During current year, 0.81 lakh tons of foodgrains under the scheme have been allocated to States/UTs.

8. Under the Scheme for Welfare Institutions, Government makes allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs for welfare institutions run by

NGOs, charitable institutions, etc. to meet their requirements of foodgrains. During current year, 1.63 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.

9. Under the Scheme for SC/ST/OBC Hostels, Government makes allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of foodgrains of SC/ST/OBC Hostels. During current year, 1.50 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.