

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2652
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2010
CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Millennium Development Goal for reducing hunger in the country has been achieved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the annual per-capita availability and consumption of foodgrains in the country during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the steps taken to eradicate hunger in the country?

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) : The United Nations' Millennium Declaration 2000 set 2015 as the time-line for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including Goal-1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, which targets to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. From estimated 53.5% in 1990, the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is required to be reduced to 26.8% by 2015.

As per mid-term statistical appraisal of India Country Report 2009 on MDGs (Central Statistical Organization), the said proportion came down to 46% by 2005-06. With the same rate of decline, this proportion may come down to about 40% by 2015 but under-nourishment among children may still continue to be a food insecurity issue.

(c) As per information available from National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) and National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO), annual per capita availability and consumption of cereals in the country during 2007-08 were as follows:-

Year Per-capita availability (Kg.) Per-capita consumption (Kg.)

2007-08	182.9	140.4 (Rural)
	116.4	(Urban)

The annual per-capita availability of foodgrains in the country during 2008-09 was 198.95 Kg. which consisted of 184.35 Kg. cereals and 14.60 Kg. pulses.

(d) In order to reduce malnutrition, Government implements Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) and other food based Welfare Schemes such as Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) Scheme for school children, Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) Scheme for children below 6 years of age and mothers, Annapoorna Scheme for indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above but not getting old age pension, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), scheme for supply of subsidized foodgrains to hostels and Village Grain Banks Scheme.