

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1408
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
MILLENNIUM GOALS ON HUNGER
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the latest UN Millennium Development Goals Report, 2010 released recently revealing that hunger level in Asia, including India is not decreasing as projected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether India is projected to miss the Millennium Development Goals for eradication of hunger; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) to (d) : The United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2010 presents data upto May, 2010 on progress towards eight Millennium Development Goals which include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Most of the MDGs were set with 1990 baseline.

As per this Report 2010, the overall poverty rate is expected to fall to 15 per cent by 2015, indicating that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day, can be met. India too has contributed to the large reduction in global poverty. In India, poverty rate is expected to fall to 24% in 2015 from 51% in 1990.

However, the report states that progress in reducing prevalence of hunger has not been sufficient to reduce the number of malnourished people, as indicated by 46% of children being underweight in Southern Asia.

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 Scheme (ICDS) 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.