

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
FOOD CRISIS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the likely impact of the global food crisis on the food security situation in the country and the proposed Food Security Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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) and (b): Government allocates foodgrains at subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 Crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35kg per family per month. Allocations of foodgrains for APL category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool and past offtake by States. Government is also implementing other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Annapoorna Scheme etc. Besides, as announced by the President of India in her address to the joint session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act that envisages, inter-alia, entitling every family below the poverty line, by law, to a certain quantity of foodgrains each month at subsidized prices.

United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in its 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation' Report No.3 (September, 2010) has stated that 30 countries worldwide are currently facing crises requiring external assistance for food as a result of crop failures, conflict or insecurity, natural disasters, and high domestic food prices. However, India has not been included in the list of these 30 countries.