

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2247
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
PER- CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether the per-capita consumption of foodgrains is declining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote consumption of foodgrains and to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains 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)&(c): As per the consumer expenditure data relating to household consumption of various goods contained in the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Report No.509, it is observed that per capita consumption of cereals and pulses has declined between 1993-94 and 2004-05. The quantity consumed in kg per capita in 30 days has been as follows:

YEAR	RURAL	URBAN	CEREALS	CEREALS
	PULSES		PULSES	

1993-94	13.4	0.76	10.6	0.86
---------	------	------	------	------

2004-05	12.12	0.71	9.94	0.82
---------	-------	------	------	------

The reasons for change in the pattern of consumption of foodgrains can be attributed to a number of factors such as changes in income, tastes and preferences, including that for processed food products, relative prices of food items, etc.

In order to make foodgrains available for consumption to the targeted poor population of the country, Government allocates foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families is also made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Under TPDS these foodgrains are supplied at Central Issue Prices, which are highly subsidized and lower than the open market prices.

Besides the above, Government allocates foodgrains under different Welfare Schemes, which include Annapurna Yojana, Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG), and Village Grain Bank (VGB) scheme. These schemes are intended to make available foodgrains to the targeted population to enable them to increase their consumption levels.