

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009  
CONSUMPTION OF FOOD  
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**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the per capita consumption of food in terms of calories and proteins has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is disparity between urban population and rural population in consumption of food in calorie terms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has formulated any action plan/scheme to address the problem of malnutrition; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**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),(d),(e)&(f): As per details 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	PULSES	CEREALS	PULSES
1993-94	13.4	0.76	10.6	0.86
2004-05	12.12	0.71	9.94	0.82

As revealed by these surveys, while per capita consumption of cereals is more in rural areas, that of pulses is higher in urban areas.

The problem of malnutrition is a multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation. National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development highlights a systematic collaboration among National Government agencies, State Governments, NGOs, private sector and the international community. NPAN is an affirmation of the Government's commitment to alleviate various forms of malnutrition and achieve an optimal state of nutrition for its people.

To mitigate the problem of malnutrition among pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development in which Supplementary Nutrition is a component. Universalization of this scheme is being taken up with focus on SC/ST/Minority habitations and revision of norms of supplemental nutrition. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) also focuses on providing nutritional supplement to adolescent girls by providing foodgrains to them. Besides, Nutrition Education, Awareness and Counseling are being taken up by that Ministry.

Government also 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 other Welfare Schemes, which include Annapurna Yojana, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Village Grain Bank (VGB) scheme. These schemes are intended to make available foodgrains to the targeted population to enable them to improve their nutritional level.