

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5402
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
FOOD SCARCITY
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government had directed the Food Commissioners to visit villages and obtain information on the prevalence of food scarcity and hunger deaths;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the tours conducted during the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to remove food scarcity and check hunger deaths in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Department Food and Public Distribution has requested all State Governments/UT Administrations for a report on deaths, if any, due to hunger and starvation. State Governments/UT Administrations have so far reported that there have been no incidence of death due to hunger/starvation in their States/UTs.

(c): For ensuring food security to the poor and vulnerable population and tackling the problem of hunger in the country, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Governments /UT Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme, etc. During 2011-12, under TPDS, a quantity of 543.58 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to States/U.Ts. This include additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of food grains made for BPL families at BPL issue prices and 3.87 lakh tons of additional allocation made to 13 States for distribution in the poorest districts as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. 47.45 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs for the Other Welfare Schemes.

TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and its further allocation to the States/UTs. State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for lifting the allocated foodgrains and its distribution within the States/UTs and in ensuring the allocated foodgrains reach the targeted beneficiaries, particularly, the vulnerable sections of the population and to put in place an effective mechanism to monitor the same so that no one suffers from starvation or hunger.