

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3291  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011  
MORTALITY DUE TO STARVATION  
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam

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

- (a) whether certain States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have the highest mortality rate in the country due to starvation and malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to control the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide any special package to Uttar Pradesh in view of the latest ruling by the Supreme Court that there should be no deaths in the country due to starvation and malnutrition; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Mortality/ Death rate in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was 9.5 and 7.9 as compared to 8 at the All India Level in 2003 as per statistics of the Registrar General of India. However, the above mortality rate in the country is not mainly due to starvation and malnutrition.

The Government accords high priority to the overall issue of malnutrition, particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women and has been implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs). The interventions to address nutrition challenges in India mainly stem from the National Nutrition Policy and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition which envisage direct and indirect interventions.

For tackling the problem of hunger and starvation in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, 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 and Village Grain Bank Scheme. During 2011-12, under TPDS, a quantity of 542.28 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to States/U.Ts. This includes additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of food grains made for BPL families at BPL issue prices and 2.57 lakh tons of additional allocation made to 8 States for distribution in the poorest districts as per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. 47.73 lakh tons of food grains have also been allocated to States/UTs for the Other Welfare Schemes.

(d) & (e) In pursuance of the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for making additional allocation of food grains to 150 poorest districts in the country, on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System (CVC on PDS), additional allocation of 2.57 lakh MTs of food grains have been made to 8 States covering 45 districts. No specific allocation has been recommended for Uttar Pradesh by the CVC on PDS.