

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
TARGETS FOR MDG
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has achieved the targets set in the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regarding reduction of alarming hunger in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the annual per capita production and consumption of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce hunger in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : The United Nations (UN) member states, including India, had set for themselves eight developmental goals - entitled 'The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The recently published MDG Report, 2011 by the UN is about the progress made towards the 8 Millennium Development Goals set by UN for reduction of poverty in the world. The first MDG Goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger which shall be measured by halving the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day (between the years 1990 to 2015).

As per this Report, the corresponding poverty rate in developing countries has dropped down from 46 per cent to 27 percent between 1990 to 2005. However, the overall poverty rate is still expected to fall below 15 percent by 2015, indicating that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day can be met. India too has contributed to the large reduction in global poverty. In India, poverty rates have been projected to fall to 22 % in 2015 from 51% in 1990.

The Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India as the nodal agency entrusted with the responsibility of statistical monitoring of the MDGs has assessed the progress towards achieving the goals in its Report on "Millennium Development Goals - India Country Report 2009". As per this Report India is required to reduce the proportion of people below the national poverty line (Poverty Headcount Ratio or PHR) to 18.6% by 2015 from 37.2% of 1990. By the year 2004-05, the PHR has come down to 27.5%. Going by the rate of change in the last 15 years, the projected PHR in the year 2015 is expected to be just short of the MDG-target mark (18.6%) by about 3.5 percentage points. But since from the year 2005-06 there has been a marked improvement in the rate of decline of poverty from earlier years, there is a strong probability that if improved rate of decline continues, we may achieve the MDG target (18.6%) even before 2015. The information of annual per capita production and consumption of foodgrains as collected from Department of Agriculture and National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research (NCAP) are given at Annexure.

(d): In order to reduce hunger & malnutrition, Government is in the process of enactment of the National Food Security bill to provide for food and nutritional security, in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices, for people to live a life with dignity. Strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. Government has regularly reviewed it and has also issued instructions to States/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and by improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop (FPS) operations. Government also allocates foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore families living below poverty line. Besides, Government implements various schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to improve the nutrition status of people of the country. Government is also implementing food based other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme for schools, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) to ensure improvement of the nutritional status of children and expectant/ lactating women. Under MDM scheme 12.71 lakh tons of foodgrains and under WBNP 15.17 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated during 2011-12. Under TPDS, Government has made additional allocation of 105.66 lakh tons of rice and wheat including 50 lakh tons for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at BPL prices during 2010-11. Similarly, during the current year, the Government made an adhoc additional allocation of 50 lakh tons of rice and wheat for

distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices in all the districts of States/UTs. Allocation of 50 lakh tons of Rice and Wheat has also been made during current year to Above Poverty Line(APL) families. Apart from these, on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court for allocation of additional foodgrains to 150 poorest districts and the subsequent recommendations of the Central Vigilance Committee on Public Distribution System, Government has allocated another 2.57 lakh tons of rice and wheat to 8 States covering 45 districts so far.