

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
FOOD SECURITY
Natarajan Shri P.R.

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

(a) whether the Government is in receipt of the report on the `State of Food Insecurity in Rural India` prepared by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Rural India (December, 2008) has been prepared by World Food Programme and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. The Report presents an analysis of the food security situation in the country and the performance of the major public food delivery systems in operation. The Report also tries to give a broad indicative picture of the level of food insecurity in different States and the operation of the nutrition safety net programmes.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced in 1997 with focus on the poor. Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improve monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.