

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1203  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011  
HUNGER DEATHS  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the reasons for malnutrition and hunger deaths despite availability of surplus stocks of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the findings of the study alongwith the action taken thereon; and
- (c) the details of measures taken to check deaths due to malnutrition and hunger in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As per a survey by Registrar General of India, on 'Causes of Deaths – 2001-03 in India', nutritional deficiencies are responsible for only 2.8% death of children aged 0-4 years and 1.8% in the age group 5-14 years. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death but contributes to increased morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections.

For addressing the problem of hunger 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/Union Territory (UT) Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) including Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme, Welfare Institutions Scheme and Village Grain Bank Scheme.

During 2011-12, taking into consideration the surplus food grains available in the Central Pool, the Government has allocated, under TPDS, a quantity of 563.38 lakh tons of foodgrains to States/UT Administrations. The above allocation includes

- (i) 50 lakh tons additional allocation to BPL families at BPL prices made in May 2011 and
- (ii) 23.67 lakh tons of food grains made for 174 poorest/backward districts in 27 States during July to October 2011 as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for reserving 5 million tons of food grains for allocation to the 150 poorest districts in the country to ensure that no starvation deaths may take place and people can be saved from malnutrition as far as possible. 48.69 lakh tons of foodgrains have also been allocated for Other Welfare Schemes.

For tackling the problem of malnutrition in the country, the Government has also been implementing several schemes/programmes through State Governments/UT Administrations. These include Mid Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). All these schemes/programmes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.