

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
STUDY ON HUNGER
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether a recent study by Oxfam has revealed that the number of hungry in India had risen by 65 million during 1990 to 2005 despite the economic growth in the country during the said period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the study report has also suggested a change in the food system to tackle the problem of rise in price of essential food items and to check hunger; and
- (d) 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) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2011 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) to (d): According to a discussion paper commissioned by Oxfam, absolute number of the hungry increased by 53 million while GDP doubled during 1990-2005. It further states that while under-nutrition stagnated during the period, increase in the absolute number of hungry was due to the population growth. However, there is no official reporting of data on hunger for corroborating the above finding.

For tackling the problem of hunger 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 poor and vulnerable population under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS). During 2011-12, a quantity of 563.38 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs under TPDS. In addition, 48.69 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs for Other Welfare Schemes.

The study has suggested effective implementation of National Food Security legislation and sustainable revival of agrarian productivity, inter alia, as measures to reduce hunger in the country. The Government is committed to the enactment of the National Food Security legislation.