

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3160

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

FOOD SECURITY

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

- (a) whether malnutrition, hunger and starvation is reported to be prevalent in various regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported by various agencies during the last one year, State-wise;
- (c) whether a general concern has been expressed regarding the food security situation in the country in the upcoming decade;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken to ensure food security in the country?

Answer

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

(a)to(g): According to National Family Health Survey Report of 2005-06, there have been prevalence of under nutrition in children and women in various States, as per State-wise details given in the Annex. There are no known official assessment/data reported on prevalence of hunger and starvation in the country. Current food grain stocks with the Government is quite comfortable to meet the food security requirements of the country.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a major instrument of Government's economic policy for ensuring availability of food grains to the public particularly the poor and vulnerable sections of the population at affordable prices and to enhance their food security. For addressing the problem of hunger and starvation and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains at affordable prices, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families under the TPDS. Cooked food/ take home rations are also provided to the targeted beneficiaries under Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) such as Midday Meal Scheme, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme and Welfare Institutions Scheme. During 2011-12, a quantity of 563.38 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs for distribution to the targeted beneficiaries under TPDS. 48.69 lakh tons of food grains have also been allocated for OWS.

Other scheme/programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), India Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) also address the problem of nutrition and hunger.