

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2976
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
MALNUTRITION
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the prevalence of malnutrition recently ;
- (b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has instructed the Union Government in this regards; and
- (c) If so, the response of the Government thereupon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c): The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 14th May, 2011 and 14th September, 2011 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196 of 2001 – PUCL Vs. Union of India and others on Right to Food, observed that in the 150 poorest districts of India, the problem of malnutrition is very intense and is related to the inadequacy or lack of food in those areas. The Hon'ble Court directed Union of India to provide adequate food grains for these 150 poorest districts on a priority basis. The Hon'ble Court also directed the Union of India to reserve 5 million tons of food grains for distribution to the 150 poorest districts or the extremely poor or vulnerable sections of our society and requested the High Powered Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa to identify the poorest districts or poorer segments of the society and ensure that additionally allocated food grains reach this segment from time to time and distributed to the 150 poorest districts or pockets where people are living in penury.

In pursuance of the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and based on the recommendations of the Committee, Government of India has allocated since July, 2011 a total quantity of 23.69 lakh tons of rice and wheat of which 7.61 lakh tons was allocated at Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) prices and 16.08 lakh tons at Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices for distribution in 174 poorest/backward districts identified by the Committee in 27 States including allocation of 1473 tons of food grains to 6 districts of 4 States for running Community Kitchen to provide cooked food under the Corporated Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme."