

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3084
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
FOODGRAIN AVAILABILITY
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country has declined and starvation/hunger has also been reported despite increase in stocks and reported wastage of foodgrains due to storage in open;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allocate the surplus stock to the poor to prevent damage to foodgrains and improve availability to the poor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon;
- (e) the additional storage capacity created during the 11th Five Year Plan; and
- (f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the per capita availability of foodgrains for the poor in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The per capita net availability of foodgrains (rice, wheat, other cereals and pulses) per annum in the country during the last five years from 2006 to 2009 for which data is available is as follows:

Year Per capita per year
availability of foodgrains
(in kg)

2006 162.5

2007 161.6

2008 159.2

2009 162.1

2010 (P) 160.1

(P) Provisional

The per capita availability of foodgrains as indicated above compares well with the National Institute of Nutrition's normative per capita cereals requirement of 157 kilograms per annum. State Governments have also not reported any incidence of starvation death due to hunger.

(c) to (f): With a view to increase the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country, Government interalia implements various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc under which various incentives are given with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and production. In addition, Government imports various agricultural commodities to augment their domestic availability.

Considering the availability of surplus stocks in the Central Pool, Government has been making additional allocation of foodgrains over and above the normal allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from time to time. During the year, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, the Government has allocated 36.08 lakh tons, 136.72 lakh tons and 123.69 lakh tons of additional foodgrains (rice and wheat) respectively covering Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

The details of the storage capacity created by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) & Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the 11th Five year Plan (2007-12) are at Annexure.