

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:659

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

ERADICATION OF HUNGER

Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government had committed itself, alongwith 198 other countries, for halving hunger and malnutrition by 2015 as a part of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein indicating the annual targets fixed and achieved in this regard;
- (c) whether several incidents of malnutrition and hunger have been reported from different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the number of malnutrition/hunger deaths reported by National and International agencies during the Xlth Plan period, year-wise; and
- (e) the effective steps taken to check such incidents in future and achieve the targets set under the Millennium Development Goals in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 659 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.05.2012 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. The United Nations (UN) member States, including India, had set for themselves eight developmental goals - entitled 'The Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets come from the Millennium Declaration, signed by 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State and Government, in September 2000. Out of these eight (8) goals, MDG-1 is to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger and under this goal; Target-2 is for halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. As per this Target, India is required to reduce the proportion of underweight (severe and moderate) children below 3 years of age from estimated 52% in 1990 to 26% by 2015.

In India, the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) coordinates the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring system and releases Progress Reports from time to time. The latest of this report brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in 2011 is Millennium Development Goals, India Country Report, 2011.

As per Millennium Development Goals, India Country Report, 2011, the proportion of underweight children has declined by 3% points during 1998-99 to 2005-06, from about 43% to about 40%. There has been slow progress in this indicator and at the current rate of decline, it is expected to come down to about 33% by 2015. The Administrative Ministries such as the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development are implementing a number of schemes relevant to attainment of MDG targets. There has been progress in all indicators for goals. Since further progress is expected to be made in the remaining period upto 2015, it is hoped that performance with reference to the 2015 targets will be satisfactory.

(c) & (d): As per report of National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III), 2005-06; the prevalence of underweight among "under five" children is 42.5%. Women & men in age group 15-49 years; having Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18.5 are 35.6% and 34.2% respectively. However, no State Govt./UT Administration has reported any incident of Malnutrition & hunger deaths in the country during the Xlth Plan period to the Department of Food & Public Distribution.

(e) For achieving the target of Millennium Development Goals and to ensure food and nutrition security in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate foodgrains, the Government has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Governments /UT Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - (Sabla), Annapurna Scheme, Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Government has regularly reviewed TPDS for its strengthening by streamlining monitoring mechanism, vigilance, increased transparency, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter,

use of Information and Communication Technology(ICT) tools and by improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop(FPS) operations.

During 2012-13, a quantity of 543.08 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which include additional allocations of 60 lakh tons foodgrains for Above Poverty Line(APL) families and 28.16 lakh tons of foodgrains under Other Welfare Schemes(OWS). Similarly, during 2011-12, the government made a total allocation of 638 lakh tons of rice & wheat including 123.69 lakh tons of additional allocations to Below Poverty Line(BPL) and Above Poverty Line(APL) families and 49.56 lakh tons under other Welfare Schemes.

As reported by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, malnutrition is a multifaceted, multidimensional and multi-sectoral problem. The main reasons for malnutrition are inadequate intake of food, Low Birth Weight, poor infant and young child feeding practices, frequent infections, poor socio-economic status, poor female literacy, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health, education, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation, poor hygiene etc. The Government has been implementing the following to improve health & Nutritional status of vulnerable population of the country:-

1. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was set up in October, 2008 for policy direction, review & effective coordination between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.

2. A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government.

3. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:-

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) to promote maternal health & institutional deliveries for better birth outcomes.

Focus on Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries improved coverage and quality of ANC skilled care to pregnant women, Post-partum care at community level.

Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.

Immunization of children to prevent them from both morbidity and mortality.

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.

Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.

Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children from 9 months to till the age of 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid Supplementation to pregnant and lactating women & adolescents.

4. National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of adequately iodated salt consumption at household level.

5. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) Scheme and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).