

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6224  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012  
HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN RURAL AREAS  
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**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a survey on Hunger and Malnutrition in rural areas of the country was conducted recently;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for removing Hunger and Malnutrition in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Government has not conducted recently any survey on hunger and malnutrition in the rural areas of the country.

However, during the year 2004-05, National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad carried out the study 'Diet and Nutritional status of Population and Prevalence of Hypertension amongst Adults in Rural Areas' in 9 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

As per this NNMB report (2006), the consumption of all foods except roots and tubers was below the Recommended Dietary Intake in all the age/sex/physiological groups. Only a fourth of the preschool and school children were consuming diets adequate in protein and energy, the proportion of which was higher in adolescents (about 30-60%) and in adults (about 70-80%).

The Government accord high priority to removing hunger and malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/Union Territory(UT) Administrations. These programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely Sabla, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions. Besides, indirect multi-sectoral interventions include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Annapurna Scheme, Emergency Feeding Programme(EFP), National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. Several existing schemes/programmes have been expanded/universalized just before or during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The results of these interventions would be visible after some time. Additionally, the proposed National Food Security Bill contemplates provision of supplementary nutrition under the ICDS scheme and maternity benefits for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Further, the Prime Minister's Council on India's Nutrition Challenges has decided to (i) strengthen and restructure ICDS with special focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and children under three (ii) prepare a multi-sectoral programme to address the maternal and child malnutrition in selected 200 high-burden districts (iii) launch a nationwide information, education and communication campaign against malnutrition and (iv) bring strong nutrition focus in programmes in sectors like health, drinking water supply and sanitation, school education, agriculture, food & public distribution.

During 2012-13, a total of 543.01 lakh tons of rice & wheat have been allocated to States/UTs under different schemes which include a quantity of 514.92 lakh tons of foodgrains allocated under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 28.09 lakh tons for Other Welfare Schemes.