

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6255
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION
Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether there is an apprehension among the people and the experts regarding the food security situation in the country by 2025;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the vision prepared for future food security needs of the country especially for the ensuing XIIth Five Year Plan, particularly for the Below Poverty Line families?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): No, Madam. With the existing trends in production and procurement of foodgrains, it should be possible to meet the estimated requirement of foodgrains under the National Food Security Bill (NFSB), introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011.

(c): For increasing production and productivity of foodgrains, Government has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes through State Governments like programmes of National Food Security Mission, new initiatives like Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, and Initiative for Nutritional Security through intensive Millets Promotion under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in identified areas. Besides, support for Crop Development Programmes is also extended to the States through Macro I Management in Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The Approach Paper to the 12th Five Year Plan emphasizes higher growth in agriculture sector through increasing agricultural productivity, higher investment in agriculture both in public and private sector, extending green revolution to eastern region, strengthening agriculture marketing and logistics, etc.

Government is implementing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under which foodgrains at subsidised prices are provided to targeted households under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories. Government is also implementing Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid Day Meal, Annapurna etc. to ensure food security for especially vulnerable groups. To further strengthen the commitment of the Government towards food security in the country, Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill. The proposed legislation provides for coverage of about two thirds of the population for subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. The Bill will also confers legal rights on women and children and other Special Groups such as destitute, homeless, disaster and emergency affected persons and persons living in starvation, to receive meal free of charge or at affordable price, as the case may be.