

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

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

- (a) whether the average consumption of foodgrains vis-a-vis their production and the population growth has been declining; and
(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three decades and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Various rounds of household consumer expenditure survey by the Government's National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) show a declining trend in per capita wheat, rice, and pulse consumption over the past decade. The decline in consumption of cereals is attributed to diversification of food consumption leading to an increased consumption of high value food products such as fruits, dairy products, meat, and processed food products, a reflection of rising income in the economy and change in food preferences. Trends in food and cereals consumption pattern from 1972-73 to 2004-05, all-India, rural and urban, are as under:

% SHARE OF MAJOR FOOD GROUPS IN TOTAL EXPENDITURE

Sector Year All food Cereals

Rural	1972-73	72.9	40.6
	1987-88	64.0	26.3
	1993-94	63.2	24.2
	1999-00	59.4	22.2
	2004-05	55.0	18.0

Urban	1972-73	64.5	23.3
	1987-88	56.4	15.0
	1993-94	54.7	14.0
	1999-00	48.1	12.4
	2004-05	42.5	10.1