

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
MDG ON HUNGER
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Millennium Declaration 2000 had set 2015 as the time line for achieving most of the goals including eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for reducing hunger in the country has been achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the annual per capita availability and consumption of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year;and
- (f) the steps taken to completely eradicate hunger in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The United Nations (UN) heads of State and Government, including India, in its Resolution "United Nations Millennium Declaration" adopted in the General Assembly in the year 2000 had set 2015 as the time line for various Goals including the goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The eight developmental goals - entitled 'The Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) have 18 targets, and a series of measurable indicators for each target. The Goals are as under:-

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

(c) & (d): The Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India coordinates the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring system and releases Progress Reports from time to time. As per Millennium Development Goals – India Country Report 2011 brought out by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the MDG targets and indicators related to eradication of hunger are as follows:-

MDG	Targets	Indicators
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Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	Target 2: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Prevalence of under- weight children under three years of age
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India is required to reduce the proportion of underweight children below 3 years of age from estimated 52% in 1990 to 26% by 2015. As per CSO's India Country Report 2011 the proportion of underweight children has declined by 3 percentage points during 1998-99 to 2005-06, from about 43% to about 40% and at this rate of decline, it is expected to come down to about 33% by 2015. The Report also states that 10 States in the country have already achieved the all India MDG targets in this regard.

(e): The information of annual per capita availability and consumption of foodgrains as collected from Department of Agriculture, and National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research(NCAP) are given below:-

Year	Availability Kg. Per Capita	Consumption
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2009	162.1	182.4
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2010	159.5	197.9
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2011(P)	169.0	Not available()
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() P= Provisional

() Not Available with Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation at present.

(f): In order to reduce hunger & malnutrition in the country, Government has taken a number of steps to improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children as also the nourishment among people. Government also allocates foodgrains(wheat & rice) at highly subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore families living below poverty line including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month. Depending upon the availability of foodgrains in the central pool and past offtake, foodgrains are also allocated at subsidized prices for Above Poverty Line(APL) families. Besides, Government implements various other schemes/programmes in partnership with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to improve the nutrition status of people of the country. Government is also implementing food based other welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal(MDM) Scheme for schools, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP) to ensure improvement of the nutritional status of children and expectant/lactating women.

Besides, Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security, in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Bill provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population, with at least 46% population belonging to priority households and upto 50% of the urban population, with atleast 28% population belonging to priority households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS). The Bill also contains provision for nutritional support to women and children besides provisions for meals to special groups such as destitute and homeless, emergency and disaster affected persons and persons living in starvation.