

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009  
HUNGER DEATHS  
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

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

- (a) whether cases of extreme hunger and starvation deaths due to rising prices of foodgrains has been reported from different parts of the country including tribals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to tackle the problem of hunger and starvation in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): As per reports received from various States/UT Governments, no incidence of starvation death has taken place in any State/Union Territory Government.

(c)&(d): For tackling the problem of hunger and starvation in the country, the Government has been implementing various schemes/programmes details of which are given below:

**1. Targeted Public Distribution System:**

Government is allocating food grains at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under this, food grains are allocated to the States/UTs @ 35 Kg per BPL/AAY family per month. Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of ration card holders. Presently, allocations of food grains under this category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month. During 2009-10, a quantity of 190.2 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under APL category.

2. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting old age pension, are provided 10 Kg of food grains per person per month free of cost. 94,970 tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs under the scheme during 2009-10.

3. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa in eight KBK Districts of the State, rice at BPL rates are allocated to the State Government for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts. 18,000 tons of rice have been allocated under this scheme during 2009-10.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the Village Grain Bank Scheme implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Governments, food grains are allocated free of cost by Government to States. So far 18,506 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 20 States and food grains @ one quintal per VGB member are allocated.

5. The Government also makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs through the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development under Midday Meal scheme for providing food to school children studying in primary and upper primary levels. 27.73 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated under the scheme during 2009-10.

6. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State/UT Governments aimed at improving the nutritional status of children below 6 years of age and expectant/lactating women, 9.26 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated during 2009-10.

7. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls is another programme implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development through State Governments for improving the status of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-19 years. During current year, 53,371 tons of food grains under the scheme have been allocated to States/UTs.

8. Under the Scheme for Welfare Institutions, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of welfare institutions. During current year, 1.37 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under

the scheme.

9. Under the Scheme for SC/ST/OBC Hostels, Government makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs for meeting requirements of food grains of SC/ST/OBC Hostels. During current year, 1.50 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated to various States/UTs under the scheme.