

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013
WELFARE OF THE POOR
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the 25% population of the country is still hungry despite huge foodgrain stocks as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of the poor; and
- (c) the special new schemes if any, proposed to be started by the Government for the welfare of the poor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) The NSS Consumer Expenditure Survey, conducted quinquennially by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, provides estimates of household consumer expenditure and its distribution at National and State levels. Based on these surveys, as indicated in the NSS Report No.547 on the "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households" (February 2013), the percentage of households that have reported getting two square meals a day throughout the year has gradually increased from 94.5% in 1993-94 to about 98.9% in 2009-10 in rural India and from about 98.1% in 1993-94 to 99.6 % in urban India.

(b) & (c) In order to address the issues relating to hunger, Government has taken a number of steps to ensure food security of the people particularly those below the poverty line. Government has been providing foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through States /Union Territories under the Targeted Public Distribution System and Other Welfare Schemes such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Annapoorna Scheme for senior citizens, Emergency Feeding Programme, Village Grain Bank Scheme, etc. Besides, the Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill in Lok Sabha which proposes to provide 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.

In addition to providing food security, the Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for the poor to address issues like employment, healthcare, housing, education, social security, etc. These include schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) - Aajeevika, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), etc.