

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:487

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

ACCESS TO FOOD

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

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(a) whether reports including the one by UNICEF suggest prevalence of hunger in the country, particularly among the children despite adequate stocks and the foodgrains getting damaged every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve local communities to ensure availability and access of people to food; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon along with the other steps taken to eradicate hunger and ensure food security in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 487 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 30.04.2013 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (d): As per the National Family Health Survey-3, (NFHS-3) 2005-2006, In India 42.5% children under 5 years are underweight and 69.5% are anaemic. The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature and cannot be improved by a single sector alone. The Government is implementing several schemes/ programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations. The schemes/programmes include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid-day-Meal Scheme(MDM), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls(RGSEAG) namely SABLA, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions. Besides, indirect Multi-sectoral interventions include Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme etc. Several of the schemes namely ICDS, NHRM, MDM, SGSY have been expanded post 2005-06. All these schemes have the potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.

It is not correct to say that foodgrains are getting damaged. The quantity of damaged food grains during 2011-12 & 2012-13 each was only 0.03 lakh million tons.

In schemes like TPDS, MDM, there is involvement of local communities like Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups, Women Self Help Groups and Co-operatives. In Vigilance Committees also these groups play an important role in monitoring and social audit.