

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5977
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
STARVATION AMONG CHILDREN
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a report prepared by an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Save the Children, has revealed that rising cost of essential commodities has forced a very large percentage of the families in the country either to slash their daily food intake or go without food for an entire day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the 24 percent of the families said their children had to go without food for an entire day while 27 percent never afford to buy meat, milk and vegetables each week;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures adopted or likely to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (e): The surmise mentioned in (a) to (d) is as per a survey undertaken in India among other 4 countries, by an organisation Save the Children, and is based on a very limited sample of 1057 people only.

Government is giving priority to the issue of increasing the availability of food through agricultural and economic measures towards improvement in yield, storage, and marketing. There are major schemes/ programmes in the agriculture sector such as the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Kirschi Vikas Yojana (RKVP), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm, and maize (ISOPM), and efforts towards augmenting Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Another approach adopted is to provide the supplementary nutrition/meal through the targeted schemes/programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), namely, SABALA, and the Mid-day Meal (MDM).

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, NRHM, MDM, SGSY have been expanded post 2005-06. All these schemes have potential to address one or other aspect of Nutrition.

Under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP), food grains viz. Wheat, Rice and Coarse grains such as Ragi, Maize, Jowar, Bajra are allocated to States/UTs at BPL rates for facilitating Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Scheme. Based on the requirements received from the States, food grains are allocated to the States, by this Ministry on receipt of allotted quota from Department of Food & Public Distribution.

The proposed National Food Security Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha will also contribute towards food security. Government has also announced a pilot programme on Nutri-Farms for introducing new crop varieties that are rich in micro-nutrients such as iron-rich bajra, protein-rich maize and zinc-rich wheat.