

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRIME MINISTER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1585
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
EXPENDITURE FOR TWO SQUARE MEALS A DAY
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Ramshankar Dr.

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of households getting two square meals a day has increased over the year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise including the criteria/parameters worked out for the purpose;
- (c) whether various social organisations have submitted memoranda in this regard in view of the rationality of criteria/ parameters fixed by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the detail thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The NSS Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 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 the 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 increased from about 97.4% in 2004-05 to 98.9% in 2009-10 in rural India and from about 99.4% in 2004-05 to 99.6% in urban India. These estimates are based on the interviews of the representative sample of households which, inter alia, include questions pertaining to food adequacy throughout the year. The State-wise distribution of these estimates, separately for rural and urban households, in 17 major States of India (with a population of 20 million or more as per Census 2001), based on data extracted from respective NSS reports for the years 2004-05 and 2009-10 is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) Planning Commission has not received any representations from social organisations regarding rationality of criteria/ parameters fixed by the Government in ascertaining these estimates.