

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:849

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

STARVATION

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

(a) whether hunger/starvation/malnutrition is reportedly prevalent in the country and several deaths have also occurred due to these reasons as indicated in the Global Hunger Index and other reports by National and International Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such deaths reported during each of the last three years and the current year along with the steps taken for eradication of hunger;

(c) whether allegations have been levelled that cases of starvation/ malnutrition are being under-reported by ascribing such deaths to other reasons and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether doubts have been raised that the National Food Security Act is unlikely to have any impact on the food security situation in the country since the allocation of 167 gms. of foodgrains is inadequate to meet the nutritional requirement of an individual and if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) The NSS Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted quinquennially by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, provide 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 98.9% in 2009-10 in rural India and from 98.1% in 1993-94 to 99.6% in urban India.

No State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to hunger/starvation/malnutrition so far.

To tackle the problem of hunger/starvation/malnutrition in the country, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme, etc. The Government of India allotted 23.69 lakh tons of foodgrains during 2011-12 and 21.21 lakh tons of foodgrains during 2012-13 for distribution to the additional BPL and AAY families in the poorest districts across the country in addition to the TPDS allocation for these years. During 2013-14, the Govt. of India has so far allocated 559.71 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS and OWS.

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) has come into force and the State Governments and UT Administrations have to implement the Act within a period of 365 days i.e. upto 04.07.2014. A total of 2/3rd population of the country as per 2011 census will be covered under TPDS under the Act. As per NFSA, total allocation of foodgrains is likely to be approximately 614.3 lakh tons for TPDS and OWS. In addition to the provision for foodgrains at subsidized prices under TPDS in NFSA, 2013, the act has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Besides, meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000. Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals or take home rations as per the prescribed nutritional standards.