

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2982  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015  
NUTRITIONAL SECURITY TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
Butta Smt. Renuka

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes a paradigm shift from household food security to nutritional security to women and children in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has adequate production/stock of foodgrains to meet the norms of such nutritional security in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the educational and research efforts undertaken by the Government to spread/impart knowledge/awareness about nutritional security in the country; and
- (d) the other remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b): To address the problem of food security/nutritional security in the country, the Government has been providing substantial quantity of foodgrains 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, Annapurma etc.

During the year 2014-15, Government of India has so far allocated 614.53 Lakh Tons of foodgrains under TPDS and OWS. This includes allocation of 483.70 Lakh tons under TPDS, 66.45 Lakh tons additional APL and BPL allocation, 12.04 lakh tons for natural calamities, additional TPDS requirements etc. and allocation of 52.34 lakh tons of foodgrains under OWS.

To further strengthen the efforts to address the food security of the people, Government of India has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on 10.09.2013. The act provides for coverage upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices of Rs.3/-, Rs.2/- & Rs.1/- per Kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively under TPDS, thus covering about two-third of the population.

The Act also has a special focus on nutritional support to women and children, pregnant women and lactating mothers who will be entitled to meals as nutritional norms as well as to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs.6000/-. Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals or take home rations as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.

(c) & (d): The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry, through its 43 regional field units, is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition, in addition to advocacy towards generating awareness through nutrition education programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media.

In addition, a Nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign against malnutrition to create awareness about nutrition challenges and promote home-level feeding practices has been launched during 2012-13.

The main aim of all these activities is to improve nutritional outcomes and bring down the level of malnutrition in the country especially amongst women and children.