

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1902
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2017

STARVATION DEATHS

1902. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases of starvation of deaths have been reported from various States during the last three years and till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the action taken/ proposed to be taken to provide foodgrains to the affected families in the country and check such deaths?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) : No State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to starvation so far.

However, to eradicate the problem of starvation and to provide food security to the vulnerable population, 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) in terms of National Food Security Act, 2013 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 Scheme etc.

During the year 2015-16, the Govt. of India has allocated 611.10 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS, NFSA and OWS. This includes allocation of 496.77 lakh tons under TPDS, 50.01 lakh tons additional APL and BPL allocation, 11.70 lakh tons for natural calamities, additional TPDS requirements etc., and allocation of 52.62 lakh tons of foodgrains under OWS. During the current year 2016-17, the Govt. of India has so far allocated 628.91 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS, NFSA and OWS.

...2...

National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at highly subsidized prices of Rs.3,2 & 1 per Kg for rice, wheat & coarse grains respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System(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 are entitled to receive meals as per nutritional norms. Children upto 14 years of age are also 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.
