

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2017

STARVATION DEATHS

612. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:
SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is true that inspite of 5.2 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country covering 80.7 crore persons under NFSA, starvation death still persist in our country and if so, the number of starvation deaths reported during the last five years, year-wise under a digitized e-governance system;

(b) the top 10 States where these deaths occurred along with the number of deaths;

(c) the steps taken by the State and Union Governments to check deaths due to starvation, in the future; and

(d) whether any compensation is given to the families of people who have died due to starvation and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (d): So far as Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India is concerned, no State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to starvation so far. There have been media reports of starvation deaths in Jharkhand and UP, however, on enquiry, the State Governments informed that the allegations of deaths due to starvation have not been substantiated.

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).

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population thus covering about two-third of the population for receiving foodgrains at highly subsidized prices of Rs.3, 2 & 1 per Kg for rice, wheat & coarsegrains respectively under TPDS.

The Targeted Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central Govt. and the State Govt./Union Territory Administration. Central Govt. is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries/families, issuance of ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), etc. rest with the concerned State Govt./Union Territory Administration.

During the year 2016-17, the Govt. of India allocated 628.68 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS, NFSA and OWS. This includes allocation of 542.49 lakh tons under TPDS, 1.87 lakh tons additional APL and BPL allocation, 29.03 lakh tons for natural calamities, additional TPDS requirements etc., and allocation of 55.29 lakh tons of foodgrains under OWS. During the current year 2017-18, the Govt. of India has so far allocated 606.43 lakh tons of foodgrains under TPDS, NFSA and OWS.

The States/UTs on their part have established grievance redressal mechanism for redressal of any complaint regarding denial of ration i.e. through State Food Commission, DGROs, Toll Free Number, online grievance registration and through departmental officers/officials.