

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07 AUGUST, 2018

STARVATION DEATHS

3238. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) the number of children and women suffering from starvation and reportedly died across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes/programmes launched and funds provided by the Government for eradication of starvation among children and women in the country so far;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of children and women suffering from starvation in the country specially among rural communities; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, Community and States/UTs-wise?

A N S W E R

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

(a) to (d) : No State Government/Union Territory Administration has reported any incident of death due to starvation during any of the last three years and the current year.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 which came into force w.e.f. 5.7.2013, provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population, thus covering about two-third of the country's population for receiving rice, wheat and coarse grains at subsidized prices of Rs.3,2 & 1 per Kg respectively under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS). This Department also allocates foodgrains to the States/UTs under Welfare Institution and Hostels scheme and for festivals, natural calamities etc. Total foodgrain allocation under TPDS and these schemes stood at 611.03 lakh MT in 2017-18 and requirement of fund for food subsidy was about Rs. 1.50 lakh crore.

The Act also has a special focus on nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to meals as per nutritional norms as well as to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000/-. 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 are entitled to receive Food Security Allowance.

No survey has been conducted by Department of Food and Public Distribution to ascertain the number of children and women suffering from starvation in the country.